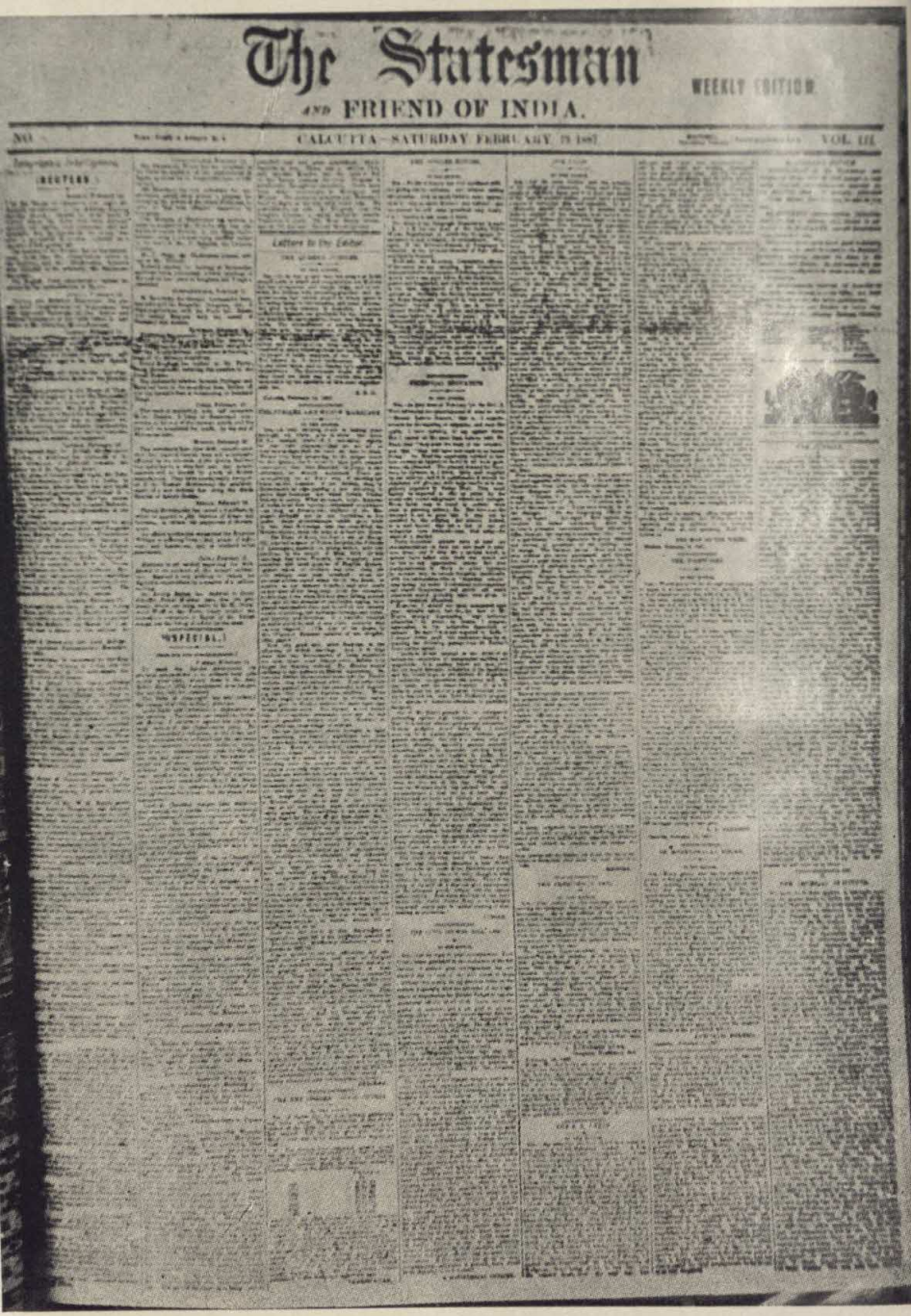
benoy ghose

SELECTIONS FROM ENGLISH PERIODICALS OF 19TH CENTURY BENGAL

VIII

SELECTIONS FROM ENGLISH PERIODICALS VIII



The Statesman

AND FRIEND OF INDIA.

WEEKLY EDITION.

CALCUTTA—SATURDAY FEBRUARY 19 1887

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benoy ghose

SELECTIONS FROM ENGLISH PERIODICALS OF 19TH CENTURY BENGAL

VOLUME VIII : 1875-80

The Statesman

NOTES BY ALOK ROY

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PREFACE

Benoy Ghose is no more. We, the members of the family, friends and readers became aware of this painful reality in the early hours of the 24th July 1980. He stilll had so many things to do.

Benoy Ghose's undaunted creative urge and his diverse intellectual pursuits encompassed what he was so apt to call his 'life's work.' He will live, as long as Bengali literature and culture thrives, in the heart of his readers and admirers of today and tomorrow as a constant source of guidance and inspiration. Meticulous as he had always been, he kept all his manuscripts in their proper order, so that we have not encountered any difficulty whatsoever while publishing the present volume, which happens to be the first in the series *Selections from English Periodicals* to be published posthumously. All the volumes of this series published so far, contain Benoy Ghose's own editorials and editorial notes. For obvious reasons, the editorial part will have to be omitted in the remaining volumes because we feel that editorials involve evaluation and a definite perspective of life of the editor himself, and coming, as it would, from other authors, might involve controversy about the basic ideas already infused in the series.

However, we did decide to get the notes compiled by another renowned specialist in the same area of research. We are profoundly grateful to Dr. Alok Ray who has agreed to take up the tiresome responsibility of compiling notes for the remaining volumes of the series. We hope that readers will take note of the fact that Dr. Ray has maintained the basic pattern adopted by the late editor. We, on our part extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Ray.

If we can make the volumes, yet to be published, available to the readers in the near future in this manner, we would consider our efforts amply rewarded.

19 March 1981 BINA GHOSE

PUBLICATION OF THE STATESMAN (Editorial)

When the proprietors of this journal announced, a fortnight ago, that they were obliged to postpone its publication until today, they hoped that the delay would secure to them the advantage of the Editor's presence upon the first issue of the journal, but they have been disappointed. They must therefore cast themselves upon the indulgence of the public for a few days, until Mr. Dawson's arrival, during which it will be understood that the Editorship is provisional only. There seems to be a general consensus of opinion in the community that there is room for, if not a positive want of, a third paper in Calcutta. In meeting this want, and in view of the large English-speaking community of the city, the proprietors have determined to give a fair trial to the one anna rate of subscription ; as there seems no reason whatever why a daily paper of the moderate size of the Statesman should not, in a large community like this, be successfully published at the charge of one anna, when half-a-dozen papers of twice its size are profitably produced in London for one penny. Success will, of course, depend upon the amount of interest which the public take in their enterprise. Their thanks are already due to a numerous body of subscribers and advertisers. who have anticipated the first appearance of the journal with their support ; and in the public interests, as well as their own, the proprietors trust that before the end of the month, the success of their experiment will be assured. The starting of a daily paper however, is a task of greater magnitude than is perhaps generally supposed, and the proprietors are compelled to solicit some indulgence for patent defects in the journal, pending the completion of arrangements for making it what the proprietors intend, and what the public will desire, it should be. Ad-

vertisers and subscribers will be good enough to communicate either directly with the office, No 3, Chowringhee Road, or with Messers. Nicholls & Co., the agents of the journal as may be most convenient. The paper will be on sale for one anna at all the Ghats, and Railways Stations, and at every great centre of transit in the city.

15 January 1875

UNIVERSITY TEXT-BOOKS (Editorial)

Mr. John Murdoch of Veprey, long known to fame for the interest he has taken in native education, has addressed the Government of Madras on the subject of the immoral teaching of certain Government and University text-books. He points to the fact that in the Madras University Calendar for 1873-74, the whole of the Gulistan is down for the First Examination in Arts, although there are two chapters, one on "Lover and Youth" and the other on "Imbecility and Old Age", which reek with the foulest filth. The same University prescribed a portion of the erotic poem by Yusuf and Zuleika for the Matriculation Examination in 1875. So gross is the poem that in the Mahomedan schools of Delhi, the Moulvies will not allow it to be read by their pupils. Mr. Murdoch, therefore very properly urges on the Government of Madras the importance of an Examination of the Hindoostani and Persian text books supplied to Mahomedan pupils in the Government school.

15 January 1875

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

We regret to observe the very poor appearance which the schools in Calcutta, intended principally for the education and culture of Christian lads, put in at the late Entrance and Fine Arts Examination. In the latter, not one passed in the

first division and only four in the second, one of whom was a native. St. Xavier's College sent up two, and La Martiniere two.

15 January 1875

DEFECTIVE STATE OF THE LAW

The Calcutta Small Cause Court is daily losing its importance owing to the defective state of the law. At present a creditor is left without any remedy in case his debtor is disposing of his property with a view to leave the country. The creditor can obtain a breach-warrant and have his debtor brought before the court ; but this does not prevent the latter from disposing of his property – his friends or relatives will do it for him, and have the money ready at hand when he obtains his release the day the decree is passed. Before the second warrant is put into the hands of the bailiff – the debtor is away.

A landlord in Calcutta is placed in almost the same position, in recovering his rent. Formerly, he could seize the tenant's hut for his rent and have it sold. Now he had to content himself with the proceeds realised by the sale of his tenants' pots and pans, which are frequently made of mud.

Then he cannot touch any article belonging to the sub-tenant. A person may, as many have done, lease a house in Calcutta, keep a room for himself and sublet the rest. He may go to jail at the suit of his landlord and at the same time live upon the rent he recovers from his sub-tenant.

15 January 1875

THE CORINTHIAN THEATRE

The theatrical event of this season has been the opening of this charming and prettily appointed place of amusement, the existence of which we owe to the exertions of its energetic manager and projector, Mr. C. Anderson, aided by the enter-

prise of a few public-spirited citizens, who...have brought a company of good English actors to play before us in a commodious and handsome theatre.

The House was opened for performance on the last Saturday of November, when Mr. Albrey's Comedy of "Forgiven" a piece abounding in good and epigramatic dialogue, and Buckstone's farce of the "Dead Shot" were played to a crowded audience.

From the list of productions it will be seen that there is no lack of novelty and the evident desire of the management to meet the wishes of the public in this matter is beyond praise.

Taken as a whole, the company is the best we have yet had in Calcutta. Albrey's Comedy "Two Roses" is still the attraction. Of this piece it is almost impossible to speak without praise....

15 January 1875

CHURCH OF ENGLAND (Editorial)

Few men who endeavour to interpret the signs of the times will deny that the next great party struggle in the history of England will be over the Established Church. Not only is the battle certain but the issue as well. The separatists will win the day—because the Church itself is incapable of adjusting her creeds and formularies to facts as they are.

Take for example, the Thirty-Nine Articles. These propositions were made a condition of assuming office in the Church of England in the, hope of thereby assuring uniformity of doctrine. Apart form this end, they had no use whatever. They have utterly failed to achieve that end.

Ecclesiastical co-operations never reform themselves, they only shrivel up and shrink into narrower limits, as the spirit that once animated them becomes incarnate in new forms of life.

The Established Church as it exists is doomed. To many people the separation of the Church and State is a matter of

no deeper moment than a bill for the extension of suffrage. To our thinking it is a question which goesdown to the very roots of society and will effect for evil or good the whole future history of the English people all over the world.

The separation of the Church and States is in truth a thing impossible. Some kind of Church and State we must have. The important question is – what kind ?

It is admitted by everyone that the State can no longer allow the great mass of the people to be dependent for education on the fluctuating efforts of private beneficience. Some sort of establishement must be there to instil into the people some sort of education. The education could be one which affirms that nothing is known of God, and that there are no eternal laws of right and wrong – or one that affirms that there is a righteous government over the universe.

...Which machinery produces the most abundant returns – the manufacture of Atheists in the Government colleges, or the manufacture of Christians in Missionary places of education ?

16 January 1875

SHOP RIVALRY

To the Editor of the Indian Statesman.

Sir, – I expected to find in your paper some explanation with reference to an editorial para that appeared in the Englishman, a few days ago, concerning the subscription to the Statesman. It appeard to the Editor somewhat strange that the proprietors of the Statesman should charge Rs 2 per mensem or Rs 21 per annum to subscribers, when, to non-subscribers, (I believe, would) the charge for a copy was only an anna. Evidently the Englishman lost sight of the fact that the two rupees included the charge of delivery of the paper. Non-subscribers, I believe, would have to send for the paper paying

cash daily. For myself, I had rather pay Rs 3, than put myself to the trouble of sending for the paper daily.

Yours faithfully,
A Subscriber.

17th January 1875.

19 January 1875

ABOUT STATESMAN (Editorial)

It was not, we suppose, to be expected that our daily local contemporaries should view the successful establishment of the one anna paper with complete equanimity ; and so one of them has politely ignored our enterprise altogether as too insignificant for notice, while the other demands our arrest, on the ground ,that Lord Northbrook will inevitably be regarded as the author of what appears in our columns, since one of our 25 proprietors is, as all the world knows, in charge of the Department of Statistics and Agriculture in the Bengal Secretariat ! Does not the article on Mulharao bear "the impress of his hand ?" And what could be more unfortunate than that article at the present juncture, what more likely to "produce indignation against the Viceroy and sympathy for the Gaekwar", unless, indeed, it can be legally proved that he, Lord Northbrook, personally had no part in its concoction. Alas, for Indian journalism !

19 January 1875

OLDEST TAILOR IN THE WORLD

Father Fipps is dead. He was the oldest tailor in the world. He began his trade at nine years and never stopped till he reached his hundredth year, when he retired. He was 109 years of age when he died.

19 January 1875

TRAVELLING

Travelling on the north-west line of the Madras Railway must be quite an exhiliarating performance. There are only three breaks in the line, at one of which passengers are crossed on a charpoy. The second one crossed on a raft, and the third on a country cart. At one of the refreshment rooms the lights are turned out at 3. 30 a. m. and everyone turned out to sleep in the carriages. The butles either drunk or with all the appearance of being so.

20 January 1875

SCINDE, PUNJAB AND DELHI RAILWAY

(Extracts from the report in the Overland Mail of the half-yearly general meeting of the Scinde, Punjab and Delhi Railway Company.)

...Traffic during the past half year had increased and the percentage of working expenses had decreased in a corresponding proportion. This increase in the receipts was in some degrees due to the effects of the famine in Bengal. It had proceeded from the conveyance of grain to the affected districts. The Indian Railways had been steadily increasing their traffic and many new lines had been constructed. The Nizam had recently opened 100 miles of railway, and fortunately he had done so on the Indian broad guage. The line from Ahmedabad to Indore was also to be constructed on the broad or Indian guage. Scindia had proposed to make a railway ; the Government suggested the narrow or metre guage but he insisted on the 5½ foot or Indian guage.

20 January 1875

DARK AND BRIGHT SIDES OF INDIAN PROGRESS

(From the *Pall Mall Budget*)

No fault can be found with the writer of the highly interesting "Statement exhibiting the Moral and Material Progress of India" which has just been printed, if his pages are largely colefused with rose colour ; for Parliament when it provided for an annual report on the subject, must have expected something of the kind. The people of India may be getting improved justice and better education, more roads and more railways ; yet we cannot forget that but for one effort on the part of the Government, some millions of men would have perished from simple want of food.

...A simple accident of climate, known to occur almost at fixed intervals was on the point of producing in a month or two the effects of a dozen years of pestilence and war. The report points to the conclusion that for the purpose of supplying the population with sufficient food an almost exclusive dependence must for the present be placed on the greatest and oldest of Indian industries – agriculture.

22 January 1875

THE RAILWAY VIADUCT

The railway viaduct, which is thrown across from the Wuzeerabad bank of the Chenab to the Kutala one, is, we understand, considerably more than a mile in length, and moreover the longest bridge in the world.

23 January 1875

PARSEE LADIES AT BALL

At the late masonic ball at Kurrachee, a number of Parsee ladies with their husbands were present, and mixed and conversed freely with Europeans of both sexes. At this ball we are

told by the Kurrachee correspondent of the Times of India one young Parsee lady "was quite at home in the schottishe and the circassian circle, and had she worn English boots instead of the awkward little Parsee slippers, she would have danced as well as any English lady in the room."

23 January 1875

BRAHMO SAMAJ

Baboo Keshab Chunder Sen – Anniversary lecture in connection with the 45th anniversary of the Brahmo Samaj will be delivered today at the town hall at 4. 30 p.m. Subject : Behold the light of heaven in India.

23 Jaunary 1875

VERNACULAR PRESS OF INDIA

Mr. Lely's essay upon the Vernacular Press of India has naturally drawn forth criticism from each side of the position he has reviewed ; that is to say, from the advocates of a "strong Government" on the one hand, and, as we may almost term them, of no Government at all upon the other. To the latter belong, of course, the native papers themselves, who naturally object to the slightest infringement of the political creed they seek to establish viz. that there is no God but the people, and the Patrika is its prophet.

...It seems to us that, as education advances, the printing press may become a bridge over the "great gulf" which now divides us from the native world ; if Government will only use it, and show itself and its measures freely and boldly to the people, either by means of a journal or by the more cumbrous but substantially the same method of a separate Public Intelligence Department, as suggested by the Indian Observer.

23 January 1875

FASHIONS (From our own Correspondent)

Paris. December 26. The classical soldier's capute has been pressed into the service of ladies' toilettes, for in carriage driving the mantles are capable of being thrown over the head.... It is best to confine the dreesing-gown ever to the bed-chamber. Corsages continue to be ornamented with embroidery or pearls and basques descend very low upon the jupe. Large fans are banished from soirées ; no one desires them or regrets them. Leather petticoats are also fashionable.

23 January 1875

N.-W. PROVINCES

Sultan Mohamed Khan, inspector of police, 1st grade, is appointed as assistant district superintendent of police of the 2nd grade, and is posted to the Rohilkund Division. Thus the ice has been broken and Sir John Strachey's scheme for introducing the native element in the higher ranks of the police will, no doubt, find favour in other parts of the upper provinces.

23 January 1875

STATE RAILWAYS

From a statement which appears in the last issue of the Gazette of India, it appears that the gross receipts on guaranteed railways in India in 1874 were Rs. 7,50,13,477, being an increase of Rs. 1,07,70,812 over those in 1873. The gross receipts on States railways show an increase over those in 1873 of Rs. 5,72,131. The above however, professes to be but an approximate statement. A more exact one for the half-year ending 30th June, last, shows that while the earnings on all the railways were Rs. 5,08,51,098, the expenses were only Rs. 2,25,79,788, leaving a net balance of Rs. 2,82,71,310.

25 January 1875

BOMBAY BARODA AND CENTRAL RAILWAY

The Chairman, at the half-yearly meeting of the Company called the attention to the statistics prepared by the Secretary, on Indian Railways. The Company had established third class return tickets at low rates, extending thirty-eight miles on the railway from Bombay, with a view to encourage the local and suburban traffic. There was now much public interest, felt with respect to the construction of the Central Indian line from Ahmedabad to Ajmere and from Ajmere to Delhi.

25 January 1875

THE NATIONAL INDIAN ASSOCIATION

Miss Mary Carpenter, observes the Times, wants to fasten upon the conscience of the nation a sense of our duties towards India. She has founded a society, the National Indian Association, and the meeting at Bristol last week was held for the purpose of keeping its objects before the public. We fear that Miss Carpenter will have to confess that she is "flogging a dead horse." Whatever the cause, the fact is not to be contested that for the mass of Englishmen, India is little more than a name.

25 January 1875

ENGLISH CHURCH IN INDIA

If it be true, as we affirmed the other day, that the days of the English Church as a State Establishment are numbered, it is no less true of the Indian Ecclesiastical Establishment. As our rule in India becomes more settled and extensive, so does also the Church establishment of the Rulers ; and the question that is being asked with increasing earnestness is – Is it fair that the natives of India should be made to pay for the maintenance of a religion they do not accept or believe in ?

If the Church in India is to do the work that is before her, her organisation must become more extensive. More Bishops are required. Are these also to be provided for by taxation ? The officers of the Governmental Ecclesiastical Establishment belong to a State which has pledged itself not to interfere with native religious opinions ; and yet, conscientiously, they must do their utmost to convert the natives to Christianity. It is natural that those who do not wish to be converted should object to be taxed in order that agents for this may be paid.

On the other hand, it has to be rememberd, that the Established Church in India, is a necessity for the ruling race, and one that could not be provided for by private subscriptions. Even if all the Englishmen in India were willing, which they are not, pay for the proper provision of religious teachers and churches, it is doubtful if a sufficient amount of money could be spared.

... It is part of the necessary expense of our care of this country. Those who object that the expense should not be borne by the un-Christian community, might object, it seems to us, with equal reason to the Payment thus of our Medical Department and even to our presumption in occupying the position we do in India. But here we are and here we probably shall remain for some time to come ; and our dignity requires that all that belongs to our c be properly provided

In England, the Established Church is no longer the Church of the whole people. In India, things are otherwise. There is no lack of indifference indeed, or of unbelieving member s ; but there is no agitation for disestablishment among Europeans of any school.

... A State does not become irreligious because it refuses to be identified with any one f religion, when there are many other forms claiming attention and doing this work, within it. Unlike the English Church bccomessufficiently comprehensive to embrace all English Christians, the fact of its union with the State, whether in England, Scotland,

India or the Colonies will soon be amongst the questions of the past. It is easy to see how the tide of public opinion is running. It may take more or less time, but those who are wise, will see that their house is put in order betimes, as Statesmen years ago recommended the Church of England to do.

26 January 1875

HOME POLITICS IN INDIA

We are supposed not to care much in India for home politics, and yet we are considerably concerned as to who is in and who is out ; the Secretary of State for India being always a party man, and not unfrequently the Governor-General also. Thus the present Viceroy served under the Whigs – when such things existed in – the India Office itself. Our local Governors are also sometimes party men. That we have Lord Salisbury at the India Office is due to his party connexion. If therefore, we are indifferent to home politics, we ought not to be. India too, when entering Parliament, are found to take a defined political side, and it is principally by the way, when they drop party considerations in the cause of Indian interests, that they receive the least attention from the House.

It is a matter of very small interest to India to know who is likely to be the next Prime Minister, but the question is being canvassed at home, and becoming more and more a practical consideration. Mr. Gladstone has resigned the leadership of the Liberals.... Mr. Disraeli, besides being well on in years, is in uncertain health, and his retirement – however much against his will – may be necessary at any moment.... Had Sir William Harcourt's principles enabled him to join the Conservative Party, he could scarcely have failed to succeed Disraeli as their leader....

26 January 1875

MR. C. E. BERNARD

The Government of Bengal by a consensus of opinion will lose its very best man, on the retirement of Mr. C.E. Bernard, a fortnight hence. ...It is no disparagement of Sir George Campbell to say that Mr. Bernard was his right hand throughout his administration. Mr. Bernard's labors during the first few month of the Famine in particular, were almost incredible, and the completeness of the preparations made by the local Government to meet the calamity, must undoubtedly be ascribed to this gentleman. That there is a brilliant career before him no man can doubt.... He is not likely, we suppose, to return to Bengal, but he will carry with him wherever he goes the strong sympathy and the good wishes of everyone who has known him in the province.

27 January 1875

COMPENSATION FOR INEXHAUSTED IMPROVEMENTS

The question known at home as that of "compensation for inexhausted improvements" has hitherto received but slight attention in India. Untill very lately, matters such as those affected by it were settled by custom, not by law ; but within the last few years the hold of our courts on our regulations on the details of native life, and in particular all things concerned with land, have been very much strengthened. We believe that the regulations which at present govern this question was based on an erroneous view of the facts... Under the present law of Lower Bengal tenants of the non-privileged classes have no claim to any part of the increased value of their farms, which may result from improvements effected at their expense.... In the North-West Provinces an attempt has been made to introduce a more quitable system. The principal of the proprietory right of the tenant in the improvements effected at his cost has been acknowledged – but compensation is

payable only where the landlord ejects his tenant, and not where the latter resigns his farm when the period of his lease has expired, on account of illtreatment, or for orher reasons. ... We believe that the proper model on which our compensation law should be moulded is to be found in the Irish Land Act. The law gives to the tenant a right to compensation, in cash for all inexhausted and suitable improvements which he may have effected on his farm.... We know of no circumstances in the condition of Bengal, which would disqualify a ryot from receiving what it is now acknowledged a right of the Irish cottier,

27 January 1875

THEFT IN BOTANICAL GARDEN

REWARD OF Rs. 25.

The above will be paid by the Curator of the Botanical Garden to any person who will give information sufficient to secure the conviction of the thief who stole a plant of Maranta from a conservatory in the Garden last Sunday.

28 January 1875

SIR GEORGE CAMPBELL

We were never sanguine as to the result of Sir George Campbell's enquiry into the nature of the illegal cesses taken by zemindars from their ryots. We were, therefore, prepared to see the fuss made about these cesses end in nothing. We own, however, to a little surprise on seeing from its report of progress during the year 1873, that the Board of Revenue has placed itself at the head of the delinquent zemindars, and has set them the example of recusance to the law. In its capacity, as Court of Wards, the Board has to manage the estates of a number of minors. When it finds that an illegal cess is levied on an estate which passes temporarily into its hands, the Board has discovered that there are three courses open to it.

The first is to abolish the cess. The second is to retain the impost temporarily, until it can be commuted for an enhancement of the rent. The last, and apparently the most congenial expedient, is to confirm the illegal tax forever – and this is adopted in many cases. In defence of its conduct, the Board uges that these cases have, in many a instances been imposed and assented to, on the understanding that the rent should not be raised, and that it would be unjust that the ryot would retain the favourable rent rate while withholding the consideration which he had consented to pay for it.... As we multiply our connexions with the land of the country, we are fast identifying ourselves with the zemindars, and hardly keep up a bowingacquaintance with justice. We have come to that stage in which a Court of Wards, a body possessing large judicial powers openly defies the laws made for the protection of the masses of the people, and that, not in the interests of Government, but in that of private individuals, in whose favour it might be supposed to have no special bias.

28 January 1875

NIZAM OF THE BERARS

The recent correspondence in the Bombay Press, relating to the proposed restoration to the Nizam of the Berars, deserves attention not only on account of the principles involved in the case, but for the illustration it affords of the attitude which the State is prepared in to take in dealing with such questions. It is well-known that Salar Jung has set his heart on recovering for his master what is naturally enough considered by him to be an integral part of the Nizam's dominions ; and zealous partisans have not been wanting to advocate the Nizam's claim in terms more energetic than accurate. The Bombay Times of India has been specially vehement in denouncing the action of the Government as at once perfidious and tyrannical. On the other hand, the Bombay Gazette has performed a public service by showing that the main grounds

on which the Nizam's claims are ordinarily based, are without foundation. The general merits of the dispute may be briefly stated thus :

From the commencement of the century, the Nizam's Government, in return for the protection and support of the British Government, pledged itself to maintain itself in readiness for action, and whenever called for, a specified military force. After many years of the Nizam evading his part of the bargain the Government at length took the matter into its own hands and demanded a territorial guarantee for the fulfilment of the Nizam's engagements. This guarantee was granted by the Nizam in 1853, and, by the treaty which was concluded with him in that year, the Berars were formally made over in trust to the British Government.. The obligation thus created, can only cease and determine with the right of the British Government to require the continuance of the subsidiary force which the Nizam has from the first been required to furnish, and which is the chief condition of this connection with the British Government. The treaty of 1860 specially confirms all previous treaties and engagements. The Supreme Government is released thereby from the necessity of rendering an account to the Nizam of the receipts and expenditure of the assigned districts. In the face of these treaties, it is clear that the agitation which has been got up is groundless.

Partisans of the Nizam may, indeed, contend that Lord Dalhousie abused his power in 1853 by exacting a territorial guarantee, but it may be as well to remind such people that the people of India have rights as well as the Nizam, and that had he not consented to the engagement then made, it might have become necessary to dissolve the connection with Hydrebad altogether, and to treat him as a public enemy.... The cession of territory for the performance of a specific engagement, is no new feature in Indian politics ; and however unpleasant may be the strict interpretation of a treaty, we do not think that there is any just cause for sentimental regret. We are all too ready to forget that the Supreme Government administers the country in the interests of the 200 millions of

its subjects, and that the interest of the native princes are not unseldom antagonistic thereto.
29 January 1875

TALES OF THE ZENANA

As a companion to their excellent and very successful reprint of Pandurang Hari, Messrs. Henry S. King & Co., of Cornhill have just brought forth a reprint of the Tales of the Zenana or a Nawab's Leisure Hours by the same author.
29 January 1875

BHOWNUGGUR CASE

Some little noise was made more than a year ago, about what was styled the Bhownuggur case. With the Rajah of that feudatory state, the Bombay Government, under whose political jurisdiction that State was. and is, entered into an agreement for the rectification of boundaries ; and under that agreement some one hundred and fifteen villages, which up to then had been under British rule, were declared territory of the Rajah. Against that transfer of liability, so far as it effected his right to recover a sum of money due to him, a creditor of one of the inhabitants of one of the transferred villages, protested in the form of a suit in the High Court of Bombay. The judgement was that the Government of India was without power to transfer to any native government any portion of British India ; and that the transfer of the one hundred and fifteen villages, having been made without parliamentary sanction, was holly invalid.... It is evident that the Government of India holds the judgement of the Bombay High Court in the Bhownuggur case as of little or no weight, in fact of no permanent weight whatever. In so deeming, it seems to us that the Government deems aright.
30 January 1875

EUROPE LOOKS AT INDIA

It may be asserted, without fear of contradiction, that of no country in Asia are so many misconceptions and contradictions abroad, in regard to the elementary knowledge of its history, as of India. It is amusing to observe to what a ridiculous extent the art of blundering can be carried on by those, who from some remote corner of Europe, work the oracle on Indian subjects; but when they transcend these limits, and attempt willful misrepresentations of facts with the object of villifying British sway, and holding it up to scorn, the feeling changes into one of disgust. ...With the exception of one or three principalities in the west and south-west of Europe – there is not a single state on the Continent that does not heartily dislike us and resent the progress of our prestige in the East. – Our position in Asia renders us the chief power, the predominating influence, the universal referee in the whole of this part of the world. Is it then to be wondered at that we continue to excite jealousy in the breasts of those who would gladly see us descend from the enviable position we occupy as the paramount power in the East ?

30 January 1875

MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY

We are requested to remind all gentlemen whether Mahomedan or otherwise, interested in the progress of Mahomedan Education, that they are invited to a Soiree, which will be given by the Mahomedan Literary Society at the Calcutta Mudrussah, Wellesley Square, this evening at 8½ o'clock.

30 January 1875

LORD NAPIER

It seems unaccountable that those Indian journals which have steadily and justly been the eulogists of Lord Napier of Magdala as a commander-in-chief of the Indian Forces, should be the readiest to echo the mistaken and absurd allegations of the Times correspondent as to the present condition of the Indian Army. That army, instead of being inefficient, is now in a more efficient condition than it has been at any period for the last fifty years.
30 January 1875

MULHARAO

A correspondent of the Bombay Gazette, writing from Baroda, says—"The authorities, in the 'gup' of the bazar, speak now of poor Mulharao when hitherto they merely shook their heads and acquiesced in the serve-him-right doctrine. With all his faults, say some, he was a gentleman. People who ought to know, persons who lived in the palace with him, say that the case is by no means so strong against Mulharao as we have all been led to believe. The enquiry is definitely given for the 18th proximo, so that there is just time for counsel to arrive from England, and this is expected."
30 January 1875

EDITOR, STATESMAN

The proprietors of this journal regret to have to announce that they received a telegram yesterday, informing them, that Mr. Dawson cannot leave England before the end of March. On the 4th of December (ultimo) they received from him a telegram saying that he would start within a fortnight, and they consequently expected his arrival in Calcutta on the 10th or 11th of January. His passage was apparently taken, as his name appeared in the list of passengers that were due at

Bombay on the 15th instant, upon the strength of which indeed his actual arrival was telegraphed from the city. On the 1st of January they were advised by letter from London, that he would leave by the ensuing Mail, while they received yesterday an English telegram to the effect that he is unable to leave London, before the end of March. The cause of these detentions will, no doubt, be satisfactorily explained later, by letter.

The proprietors are glad to announce that Mr. J. W. O. Sullivan has kindly consented to act as Editor of this journal ad interim. The proprietors think that this explanation is due to the public, whose indulgence they are obliged to ask in the matter.

1 February 1875

ANGLO-INDIAN LIFE

It is surprising what a number of mistaken ideas concerning Anglo-Indian life are current amongst the general public in England. In how large a number of families is it still the firm conviction that India is the place to grow rich in ; that the Indian relative, be he father, uncle, nephew or son, is to come home by and by, the rich man of the family ! One of the greatest and most prevailing of these mistakes is, we think, that which assumes that Anglo-Indian society is fast, less pure than society at home. If the real facts are considered, it can be shown that this is in no way true.

...The greatest drawback to our life here, as well as the most fruitful source of the scandals that do occur, is the separation which so often occurs between husbands and wives, parents and children. A very large proportion of such separations are , we believe, unnecessary and can be avoided, to the great increase of domestic happiness.

1 February 1875

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S.C.E.R.T., West Bengal Library
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25/3, B. C. Road

BARODA

Affairs are still quiet at Baroda, although several additional arrests have been made. Further criminating evidence of Mulharao's complicity in dark deeds is being brought to light. It is also expected that the real circumstances connected with the death of Bhao Scindiah will now be revealed. This man was Prime Minister of Baroda when Khunderao, the late Gaekwar, occupied the guddee, and that on the accession of Mulharao he was thrown into prison, where he died under very suspicious circumstances. As Mulharao had attempted to destroy his predecessor by poison, for which offence he remained in confinement during several years, the people of Baroda, and indeed most the natives of India, did not hesitate to assert that it was the same hand which removed Bhao Scindiah from the face of the earth. ...The leading London papers are sending out special correspondents and reporters to be present at the enquiry.

1 February 1875

THE METHODIST MOVEMENT

(Correspondence)

To the Editor of the Indian Statesman

Sir,—In a very telling sermon, last Sunday evening, the Revd. Dr. Thoburn, the popular Methodist preacher, asked for funds to aid him in building a large "Tabernacle" for the better accommodation of his congregation, which he said was increasing every day.

...The object of my letter is to ask the Methodists, whether they could not spend the money proposed to be devoted to the building of a church for a worthier object. With a few exceptions, Dr. Thoburn's congregation is composed entirely of (so called) Eurasians, and most of these belonging to the lower classes. A great deal has been written about the want of education for this portion of the community, and a great deal of abuse has been heaped on Government for not provi-

ding it. Why do not the Eurasians try to help themselves? They are quite willing to provide themselves with a large church, which is not wanted, but they will not help themselves to educate their children better.

The Methodists want to "convert" the whole of India, but why do they not do something to ameliorate the condition of the poorer members of their congregation?

Yours etc.,

An Anti-Methodist and an Eurasian.

2 February 1875

MULHARAO

In our issue of January 19th, we made a passing allusion to some rather spiteful comments of one of our contemporaries on certain remarks which we made in our opening number on the unfortunate antecedents of Mulharao, Gaekwar. The comments appear to have been inspired by a frantic partizan who signs himself "S", and who appears to think that any allusion to Mulharao's former crimes, must necessarily be intended to prejudice the forthcoming trial in the interests of the Government. ...Complaints are, indeed, sometimes made, that trials by jury are apt to be influenced by the comments in the daily Press, but no such complaint can reasonably be made in the case of a trial like the present, in which the judges will assuredly be uninfluenced in the very faintest degree by anything that is published either in the English or vernacular Press....

It is said that the marble palace which the Gaekwar was engaged in erecting when he was removed from his throne, is a splendid palace. The whole place, it is reported, is so arranged that the most fastidious Prince in Europe could not but consider this handsome palace as suitable for his residence.

2 February 1875

BARODA

In consequence of the insensate cry for the annexation of Baroda which some of the Indian papers have sent forth, Sir Lewis Pelly has felt constrained to renew his assurances to the Sirdars, that the Government of India entertains no such intention, but, on the contrary, proposes to itself to return the State to a native administration as soon as a government is formed that will prevent the State from being torn to pieces and ruined by any avoidable irregularities.

3 February 1875

POLICE ADMINISTRATION IN BENGAL

The account of the Police administration in the Bengal Administration Report for 1873-74 shows that the results, upon the whole, testify to the improved efficiency of the force. There was no sudden outbreak of crime during 1873, nor even in 1874, the actual year of the famine. In the town of Calcutta and its suburbs, serious crime was happily unfrequent, and there has been a complete absence of any violent disturbance of the public peace.

It was stated in last year's report that the system of summary trials under the new Code of Criminal Procedure had worked satisfactorily so far as it had been tried.

3 February 1875

THE ROAD CESS

The Road Cess introduced under the auspices of Sir George Campbell, has passed beyond the region of experiment, and has proved to be a practical success. The measure affords rich districts the means, often urgently wanted, of making and repairing their roads and of opening or maintaining the waterways. A secondary, though beneficial, result of the valuation is this, that the people and the Government obtain,

regarding estates and tenures in Bengal, information such as never has been available. The Road Cess Act has accordingly been now extended to all the districts of Bengal except the Sonthal Pergunnahs, Singhboom, the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and Darjeeling. It is anticipated that at two-thirds of a full rate only, the total yield from the Road Cess in the province will amount to about a quarter of a million sterling a year.

3 February 1875

THE TONGHA DAK

Says the Darjeeling journal : The Tongha dak is now to be seen daily along the cart road, but we cannot say that we have ever seen a passenger in it. The rate of progress is of course necessarily exceedingly slow at present as the vehicle is drawn only by a pair of very slow-going bullocks. However, it is believed that the proprietors intend to substitute ponies for bullocks shortly.

3 February 1875

BENGAL THEATRE

There was a grand evening entertainment given, on Monday last, by Rajah Joteendro Mohun Tagore, at his garden residence, No 26, P. C. Tagore's Street. The Bengali drama Malati Madhava was put upon the drawing room stage and was well received. The performance of Mowla Buksh on the Veena was not so much appreciated as his execution on the Jaltaranga. Refreshments were provided by the Great Eastern Hotel. The whole of the street leading up to the garden was brilliantly illuminated. The garden house was all ablaze with gas and glass lamps, and was very tastefully decorated.

3 February 1875

JUTE EXPORT

The Supplement to the Calcutta Gazette contains a Report, both interesting and important, drawn up by the Vice-Consul at Dunkirk, on the jute trade at that place. The Dunkirk spinners frequently charter small sailing vessels to take the jute from the Indian ships in the London docks; and the desire for direct importation of jute from Calcutta is created by the fact that the spinners are at the mercy of their agents in London. As jute has a great future in store for it, the spinners at Dunkirk are anxious for the establishment of a Government scale of marks or brands, a frequent change of seed, and greater care in the preparation of jute for the market; and the attention of the Government of India is called to these three points.

4 February 1875

PATNA-GYA RAILWAY

We are glad to hear that Mr. S. C. Bayley, Commissioner of the Patna Division, has strongly recommended the construction of a light railway on the Patna and Gya branch road. There is no difference of opinion as to the necessity of the line, and that experienced officer is of opinion that it will not only pay its expenses, but prove, in the long run, remunerative to the Government. ...We believe the Government proposes to contribute £ 35 per mile, and that the Road Cess Committee in Gya and Patna will make up the difference.

4 February 1875

INDIAN MUSEUM

During the month January 1875, twenty thousand nine hundred and seventy-three persons visited the Indian Museum, Calcutta. The daily average of visitors was 806.

4 February 1875

EMPIRE IN THE EAST

However much opinion may be divided in regard to the religious convictions of the Pall Mall, based on the Darwinian theory of the evolution of species, we are compelled to accept with great reservation its criticisms on Indian affairs. The Pall Mall has in a recent issue, treated its readers to a rambling and confused article on the dangers which threaten our empire in the East. The Calcutta correspondent of the Times, who, by the way, has proved himself to be an adept in the art of blundering, has addressed a letter to the leading journal, the drift of which appears to be that, we are quite unprepared for any sudden emergency that may arise in the way of an attempt on the part of the natives to regain their independence. This communication has served as a text for preaching a homily on the insecurity of our rule in India. As it happens we need not unnecessarily fret over the warnings of this pseudo Cassandra ; for at no period of Indian history, did the English prestige in the East rest on more solid foundations than it does at the present moment.

5 February 1875

THE BEHAR HERALD

It is proposed to start an English weekly paper under the name of *The Behar Herald* to be published at Bankipore, Patna, every Tuesday, from the beginning of March next. The want of a journal representing the views of the people of Behar on questions of public importance, says the prospectus, has been much felt.

5 February 1875

VACCINATION

We need scarcely warn our readers against the dangers of a promiscuous use of hackney carriages and palankins at

this season of the year, when measles, chicken-pox and other eruptive diseases of a more dangerous type, and fatal to human life, rage to a certain extent all over the town. So long as natives will cling to inoculation, the traditional mode of warding off small-pox, and discourage vaccination by all means in their power, things must go on in their old grooves as they have heretofore done.

5 February 1875

FIRE : THE HOOGHLY BRIDGE

(From our own Correspondent)

Allahabad, 2nd February 1875

...According to one of your local contemporaries, I see an attempt was lately made to set fire to the Hooghly Bridge. There is a very old tradition among the natives of Bengal that it is sacrilegeous to cross the sacred Hooghly, except in a boat, and that certain and immediate death awaits those who are presumptuous enough to swim across the stream from bank to bank. It was a belief in the truth of this tradition that led the ignorant and superstitious classes of the natives to cry out against the attempt to span the Hooghly.

5 February 1875

MULHARAO

The Viceroy's proclamation deposing Mulharao Gaekwar, from power, pending his public trial on a charge of treason, is an event the importance of which can scarcely be overrated. It is well-known that the political status of native princes is a subject on which the greatest divergence of opinion has hitherto prevailed ; one party contending that native princes are absolute sovereigns ; the other party contending that they are mere feudal retainers of the paramount power, the British Government....The East India Association in London is the society which has recently been employed

by unscrupulous agitators to ventilate the imaginary wrongs of native princes, and to encourage them to look to England for protection from any interference by the Supreme Government.

The recent events at Baroda afford a most instructive commentary on the objects and uses of political agencies in England. Mulharao Gaekwar, as is well-known, was a liberal patron of the East Indian Association in London, and he was intelligent enough, in the days of his prosperity, to engage the services of that very intelligent humbug, Mr. Dadabhai Naowrojee. The latter first went to Baroda in 1872, and at once commended himself to the Gaekwar's favourable notice, by informing him that as a sovereign he had a right to rule as he pleased, and that the British Government had no right to interfere with him. Mr. Dadabhai further enhanced his reputation by drawing up, on behalf of the Gaekwar, a most insolent claim to take precedence in public durbar, not only of the Governor of Bombay, but even of his Excellency the Viceroy. Mr. Dadabhai received from the Gaekwar, the handsome present of Rs 50,000, and was retained as his permanent agent in England, to advance the Gaekwar's political interests. He made a public statement before the East India Association, to the effect that he had received the present at the instance of his friends and that he considered it a trust-money for his children.

The appointment of Mr. Dadabhai as Minister at Baroda in the month of August last, could not fail to be anything but a grievous and fatal mistake. Mr. Dadabhai's influence with the Gaekwar was nil and he was not unnaturally disliked by the old karbarees as an interested interloper. Mr. Dadabhai Naowrojee has no reason to be proud of his connection with Baroda during the eventful reign of Mulharao Gaekwar. The Gaekwar, a man of infinite cunning, but of small intelligence, fallen a prey to a set of interested intriguers who fatten on native States by deceiving their misguided chiefs.

It has already been suggested that a suitable successor of Mulharao on the Baroda guddee would be the Maharajah of

Vizianagram. *The Madras Mail* makes the same suggestion and speak of the Maharajah in very high terms, which we subjoin : –

"...The inheritor of a large fortune, he has administered his vast estates with distinguished success ; and as a lover of field sports, and in, every sense an accomplished and cultivated gentleman, he has, wherever he has gone, afforded his countrymen the advantage of an unexceptionable exemplar, by proving in his person what native Princes may become.

6 February 1875

RAILWAY FARES

The Board of Directors of the East India Railway Company propose, we hear, reducing the Third Class fares.

6 February 1875

CHITTAGONG NORMAL SCHOOL

The students of the Chittagong Normal School presented an address in Bengali to His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor. The address contained four prayers, two of which were : 1. the introduction of English into the Normal School as second language, and 2. the establishement of a Hindu Hostel at Chittagong for the students.

6 February 1875

THE FIRST PARSEE CONVENT

The Rev. Hormusjee Pestonjee, the first Parsee converted to Christianity, is to give an account of conversion on Wednesday evening next, at the Baptist Chapel, Bellasis Road, Byculla.

6 February 1875

PEROZESHAH MEHTA

Mr. Perozeshah M. Mehta of Bombay, Barrister-at-Law, has been engaged as a Counsel for the Gaekwar at his ensuing trial in addition to Serjeant Ballantine, Mr. Woodroffe and Mr. Purcell.

6 February 1875

FAITH AMONG THE MAHOMEDANS

In almost every town in the Mofussil where the Mahommedan element of the community enters largely into the population, there are seen small patches of carefully defined land, only a few square yards in extent, lying in the outskirts, which, on enquiry, turns out to be the last resting-place for Moslems. Any casual observer not "to the custom born" would find it hard to reconcile the two facts viz., the extent of the population and the inadequacy of the small piece of ground for the purpose to which it is devoted. But a lengthened sojourn in the country will convince him of the apathy of the people, their hatred of sanitary reforms and their blind faith in time honoured traditions.

8 February 1875

MULHARAO

Some of the London journals, although supporting the action of authority (in the matter of the Gaekwar) are not without suggestions upon collateral points. The Times says, "These Princes are not our puppets. They have roots in the country, and command a natural allegiance which our power and our benefits alike fail to extort. Nothing could enable us to execute such an act as, the deposition of the Gaekwar successfully, but the conviction of both ruler and people that we have, under any circumstances, an adequate force at our command to support us."

The Morning Post states, "The Viceroy has already indicated the course he has resolved to pursue by recognising, only a few weeks ago, as the heir of Baroda, the son of a wife of the Gaekwar."

It is curious, that the English papers still speak of the recognition of Luxmeebai and her son as having been conceeded by the Government of India, though in this country we have heard of no such proceeding as a fact, and consider the question as in a state of abeyance.

9 February 1875

CROWN JEWELS STOLEN

A strange and unfortunate accident has befallen H. H. the Maharajah of Travancore. The whole of his crown jewels were stolen from his residence at Ballygunge during the night of the 7th inst. The loss is distressing as the jewels were heirlooms of Travancore ; their money value (Rs 60,000) being subordinate to the traditional.

9 February 1875

SALE OF LAND FOR DEBT

Rather more than two years ago, while yet the North-West Provinces' Rent and Revenue acts of 1873 were but in embryo, the official world was roused by the announcement that at last "something was going to be done" about the sale of land for debt. The something assumed the shape of a Draft Bill which never went before the Council at all, and the matter would now appear to have dropped. Still every now and then some fragments of opinion crop up....Indeed, it may be said that there is hardly an annual report written by any revenue officer in Upper India which does not contain some reference to the subject of sales of landed rights, whether by decree of Court or by private arrangement. We seem, for all

this, to be just as far as ever from any satisfactory conclusion, practical or theoretical.
10 February 1875

BYCULLA CLUB

We hear from Bombay that the annual Ball given by the members of the Byculla Club, came off on Thursday night last, in a way again sustaining the well-earned reputation of the Club for giving the most select and best-attended ball of the season in that part of India. The Byculla Club ball has become such an institution in Bombay, that its effect upon the ladies is to encourage them to reserve the chef-d'oeuvres of their wardrobes for the occasion. ...The most prominent novelty of the evening was the introduction by many of the ladies of that most becoming Watteau style which necessitates on the part of the wearer the adoption of hair-powder. We must not omit to mention a new feature of this ball – we allude to the polished timber floor, which was on this occasion, for the first time, introduced to the guests unadorned by the usual dancing cloth of the country.
10 February 1875

PREMCHUND ROYCHUND

The name of Premchund Roychund has become connected with the Baroda inquiry. Rumour credited Mr. Premchund with having received "a few lakhs" for occult purposes. The great little Hindoo was to bribe Sir Philip Wodehouse and the Government of India into releasing Mulharao. The people who gave credence to these curious series of stories will, according to the Times of India, be disappointed when they hear that there is but little truth in any of them. ... Mr. Premchund, when questioned by Mr. Edgington denied receiving money from the Gaekwar. His visit to Baroda were, he said, in connection with the sale of some jewels to Mulha-

rao. These precious stones once formed part of the Empress Eugeni's magnificent ornaments. Lately, a small coterie of speculators have purchased some of them for nine lakhs of rupees. It was, Mr. Premchund asserted, with the object of inducing the Gaekwar to purchase them that he visited Baroda, and not to obtain money by vague promises to use his "influence". If Sir Lewis Pelly is satisfied by the explanation, we shall probably hear nothing more about it.

10 February 1875

FALL OF HERAT

The intelligence that Herat was occupied on the 19th January, and without any fighting Ayub Khan and his leading adherents fleeing to Meshed, will take most of our readers by surprise. The event is one of great political importance. It will show the external powers that there is, at length, what may really be called a "strong" Afghanistan, and, on the other hand, will obviate all possibility of anything like lasting coldness between the Ameer and the Government of India. ... In Persia, Ayub Khan's movements will be sharply looked after by the British Envoy at Teheran. ... The probability is that after having lived for some months a dependent on the Shah's hospitality, he will return to Afghanistan to throw himself on the mercy of his father. If so, he will have reduced to abject submission and importance.

11 February 1875

MURDER

A deplorable murder has been enacted in the Muttra district. Mr. Malcolm Reade, the Assistant Settlement Officer, was murdered on Saturday morning in his tent near Goverdhun. His bearer shot him through the head, and death was instantaneous.

11 February 1875

JOINT STOCK COMPANIES IN BENGAL

According to the return submitted by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, Bengal, for the year 1874, thirty-one new companies, with an aggregate capital of Rs. 1,12,70,000 were registered during that year, while nine companies increased their capital to the extent of Rs. 18,08,000. On the other hand, seven companies were wound up, including one with a capital of two and half millions sterling. The number of existing companies at the close of the year was 126, with an aggregate capital of seven millions. No unlimited company, and no literary or scientific society, was registered under Act XXI of 1860, during the year.

11 February 1875

THE CHINESE ANNUAL FESTIVAL

(Correspondence)

Sir, - It seems that the followers of every species of idolatry in this city are privileged, and can obtain immunity and lincence to perform what they consider their religious rights, no matter how annoying, disgusting and disagreeable any of the ceremonies may be to a Christian or any other person. All they have to do is to apply to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, who will immediately grant them to run riot. ... Thus it is every few months, or even sometimes weeks, the Chinese obtain permission to carry on their disgusting ceremonies in the public streets, firing off crackers and bombs, and other explosives, to the danger and great annoyance of every European and native, who unfortunately resides anywhere in their neighbourhood :

No sensible person would have any objection to the Chinese rejoicing, at the celebration of their new year. But when they go in so largely for fireworks and explosives, I think it nothing but justice that the Government should allow them some suitable place out of town, wherein they might

display their pyrotechnical propensities to the annoyance and injury of no one.

A EUROPEAN RESIDENT

12 February 1875

MEETING OF THE JUSTICES

It is hoped that the Meeting of the Justices coming off to-day will be numerously attended, especially by the European Justices, through whose persistent, continuous absence from the meetings the interests of the southern division of the town have, it must be remarked, somewhat suffered. There is a matter of general interest to be brought forward. The Government of Bengal has requested the attention of the Municipality to the disgraceful state of "those receptacles of filth" the native bustees ; and in a letter from the Government of India, to be read at the meeting, the attention of the local Government is called to the fact that the localities occupied, by the milkmen, are "regular plague spots in every division of the town" and that milk offered for sale, besides being derived from diseased cattle, is subject to a most deleterious form of adulteration calculated to cause and spread disease.

12 February 1875

CULTIVATION AND CURING OF TOBACCO IN BENGAL

The just circulated blue book of the Government of Bengal "on the cultivation and curing of tobacco in Bengal", is full of matter of interest. It would appear that tobacco is grown more or less extensively in every district of Bengal, with the exception of Gya and Noakhally. The returns show a total area of about 2,00,000 acres under the plant. Roughly estimated the gross annual value of the tobacco harvest of Bengal is about Rs. 1,00,00,000 a year.

Lord Northbrook proposes to import skilled tobacco-growers and curers, and the Lieutenant-Governor recommends for Bengal a systematic course of experiments for improving both the growth and curing of the plant under State supervision in the districts of Rungpore and Tirhoot.
12 February 1875

BARODA PROCLAMATION

A preliminary meeting of the influential native gentlemen was held at Bombay on Monday, to consider what steps should be adopted, to express to His Excellency the Viceroy, the feelings of the native community of Bombay, on the non-annexation policy in connection with the Baroda Proclamation of the 14th ultimo. ... It is not easy for Englishmen of but ordinary Indian experience to understand the intense dislike and humiliation with which the natives universally regard the Dalhousie annexation policy. That was the disheartening feeling which almost made the sepoy outbreak of 1857 a complete national rebellion; and that humiliating feeling endured until allayed by the issue of that Great Proclamation to which Lord Northbrook has signified his intention of rigidly adhering.
13 February 1875

FAIRLIE PLACE NUISANCE

At the Meeting of the Justices yesterday, which, we understand, was no better attended than usual, it was decided that nothing could be done at present to remedy the Fairlie Place nuisance. The majority of the Justices were of the opinion that the "grounds of common decency and cleanliness" on which the residents of Fairlie Place seek to be relieved of a "constant vile stench" should continue to stand ignored, until some months hence, when the larger question

of the completion of the drainage of the city will come up for consideration.

With regard to the bustees, the Chairman was disposed somewhat a summary course. Mr. Hogg considered he had authority to direct and carry out at municipal expense, such necessary minor sanitary improvements and that, considering these improvements would increase the value of their property, the landlords of the bustees would have no fair claim for compensation for any demolitions of huts and appropriations of land for thoroughfares which they would involve. Mr. Hogg, would however, compensate the ryots for any loss the alterations might inflict on them. Mr. J. B. Roberts held that the Municipal Act did not invest the Chairman with such powers. ... It was eventually settled that the matter should be referred to a special committee.

13 February 1875

SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM

The active, and often not only antagonistic but somewhat abusive, competition of journalism, is as old as the Fourth Estate itself. There must still be among the elder residents of Calcutta several who can call to mind a journalistic period – about twenty-five years ago – when the then two leading journals of this city seemed mainly to exist for the purpose of daily vituperating each other. The proprietary and editorial staff of one were in a state of chronic and unmannerly strife with those of the other.

The press competition of the present day in England is assuredly as spirited as need be. ... In America, the competition of the journals is notoriously without limit or scruple. The romance of crime "The Ross Abduction Case" the concluding portion of which we, today, lay before our readers, will have shewn them to what cruelly discreditable lengths the sensational journalism of the model republic is carried, and that the vilest libels on wholly innocent parties are invented and pub-

lished, with the sole view of increasing the sale of the journal dealing in them, the only cosideration looked to being whether that increase will prove pecuniarily worth the damages to which the journal will have laid itself open.

Nevertheless, we must not forget that it was to a phase of this sensational journalism, that we owed the brave and spirited discovery of the lamented Livingstone by Mr. Stanley.

15 February 1875

PUNJAB NORTHERN STATE RAILWAY

A Lahore contemporary understands that orders have been received by the authorities of the Punjab Northern State Railway from the Government of India, to push all arrangements, so as to open the line for traffic by the 15th proximo.

15 February 1875

FINLAY MUIR & CO.

Most of our readers probably observed an extraordinary case, reported in our law columns of yesterday, in which Messrs. Finlay Muir & Co., Merchants of this city, sued Messrs. Avadall & Co., for damages of Rs. 13,000 alleged to have been sustained by them through the refusal of the last named firm to take delivery of a cargo of coal imported on their account from Glasgow by the plaintiffs. Before the contract was repudiated, or the coal finally rejected, the plaintiffs hurried it to a sale by auction upon a single day's advertisement; bought it on their own account, under a fictitious name, and, then, having resold it privately at a profit upon the contract price, came into Court for Rs. 12,000 damages, and attempted to sustain their claim by a course of trickery and lying. Mr. Williamson is the sole representative of the firm (Finlay) in Calcutta, and the mildest thing we can say about him is, that the sooner he disappears from

the list of Calcutta Merchants the better for himself and them.

17 February 1875

BRITISH BURMA

Industrious enterprise is becoming vigorous in British Burma. During 1873-74 the increase in the number of steam mills at Rangoon for the cleaning of rice for exportation still continued. ... A manufactory for the preparation of burning-oil from the earth-oil or petroleum has been in operation in Rangoon, and has been fairly successful. A lac manufatory has also been started.

The marked desire of the Burmese to acquire the English language is more clearly shown year by year and the great difficulty is to obtain competent teachers, but now that the High School is established, this want will be less felt.

18 February 1875

BABOO KRISTO DOSS PAL

Baboo Kristodoss Pal has remarked in Council that it is worthy of consideration whether a private landlord is not entitled to the same facility for collecting his rent which is now possessed by a Government collector. He claims on behalf of the zemindars, whose virtual representative he is, the convenience of what is known to Revenue officers as the certificate procedure. Under this procedure the creditor has only to make out a formal certificate that the person against whom he makes a claim owes him such a sum, and he can then proceed to raise the money by the attachment of the debtor's person, or the sale of his goods ... As a matter of fact, every twentieth man in Bengal is a zemindar. Some of them would claim more than their proper shares in the estate, others would be involved in differences as to boundaries ... Certificates would be flying all over the country.

Now, the remedy for such a state of things is, not the giving of extraordinary powers to the class which has produced so many false claimants, but a good system of registration. ...If the amount due from each ryot could be ascertained by a public record, there would be no difficulty in realising it. The statement that it is difficult to collect rents in Bengal is generally a pretext ; the real difficulty felt by the zemindars is in raising the rents and collecting them at an enhanced rate.

19 February 1875

HINDOO PATRIOT

An editorial note in the last number of the Hindoo Patriot calls for notice. The note runs : – "Travancore, we believe, is the only native State which has criminal jurisdiction over European British subjects residing in that territory. It has been arranged that the Travancore State shall have jurisdiction over European British subjects within its limits for offences punishable with three years, rigorous imprisonment, and a fine of Rs. 1,000. For all other offences they are to be tried by the Madras High Court."

Our contemporary is in error. There has been no compromise with the Travancore Government ; and the Government of India is now no more disposed to subject European British subjects to the jurisdiction of the criminal tribunals of the native States than in 1872, when there was passed the Extradition Act, which provides that any such subject residing in a native State, and charged with a criminal offence, shall only be triable by the British Resident or the most contiguous British High Court. These arrangements are intended to endure until the native tribunals shall have become improved to the degree of complete reliability.

We quote the Indian Mirror.

"The latest advices from Baroda State that petitions are, or at least were, in active circulation for signatures for the

restoration of Mulharao to power, that there are hundreds willing to contribute to a defence fund in aidof the Gaekwar. There is only one thing that deters the Sirdars and others from opening a defence fund, and that is the fear of giving offence to Government. We hope nothing will be allowed by Government to be done to suppress any legitimate or constitutional means that may be resorted to by the people of Baroda in the present crisis."

We cannot but feel generous cosideration for such sympathies, and the English press should be very careful we think, in its treatment of them. The trial will do immense good in the country after the excitement it awakens has died away, and in the meanwhile the least perhaps said about native opinion concerning it the better : only let not the native press forget this man has undoubtedly been a great and cruel tyrant of his people.

19 February 1875

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY'S EXHIBITION

We have been much pleased with our visit to the Exhibition of this Society, the other day. The pictures are on view in one of the large lower rooms of the still unfinished museum on the Chowringhee Road.

The Society has been in existence eighteen years, during which period it has exhibited annually. Its object is to encourage the development and growth of photography in India, and it endeavours to attain this by giving prizes for the best pictures exhibited either by amateur or professional members. ... The Society certainly deserves support.

19 February 1875

FASHIONS

We regret to learn that the journals of fashion have begun to insist on there amiable subscribers and pupils returning to tight-waisted dresses. Concealment of the human figure by loosely fitting garments is a vice. A woman has no proper carriage or gait if she is swathed in rough cloths better fitted for the covering of a horse.

20 February 1875

PARSEES & MARATHI CLIQUE

The Parsee community have evidently given offence to the Marathi clique by their indifference to the non-annexation movement and agitation about Baroda. Native Opinion complains in its last issue that Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy had declined to attend the meeting presided over by Sir Munguldass Nothoobhoy ; but we think that the Parsee Baronet acted wisely in not identifying himself with the doings of any interested clique of natives.

20 February 1875

CIVIL SERVICE IN THE N.-W. PROVINCES

There is, we understand, a strong probability that the great grievance of the Civil Service in the North-Western Provinces, viz., the almost complete stagnation of promotion which has prevailed there for now more than a decade will soon be redressed. ...It is thought that the sufferers will have justice done to them by a special notification of promotions which will accord to them respectively, the grade and salary that would by this time have attained had they been on a provincial establishment in which promotion was not abnormally tardy. We trust that this wise and equitable intention will be adhered to by the Government of India, and

strongly pressed on the Secretary of State, whose sanction is essential to its adoption.

22 February 1875

FINLAY MUIR & CO.

It would be affectation were we to conceal our knowledge of the fact, that opinion is greatly divided in our mercantile community as to the justifiability or otherwise of the comments made in this journal, about a week ago, on the case of Finlay, Muir & Co. versus Avadall, in which judgement was given against the plaintiffs. ... On the one hand, strong indignation at our strictures ; threats "never to advertise in our columns", to "destroy us" and we know not what else have been freely and very influentially uttered ; and on the other hand, a more exactly informed minority shrug their shoulders at the case, and admit that the journal has simply done its duty.

Now, if a native firm had been concerned in this case instead of a European one, do we not all know that this agreement would have been denounced as the "trickery and lying" of a native.

Our daily contemporaries have not made any reference to it (the case) in their columns. We are too concerned for the credit of Indian journalism to believe that our contemporaries were requested not to publish the case ; but there is the fact that neither journal made the remotest allusion to it. ... If, when scandals of this kind occur, the public press can be made to keep silence by the solicitations of friendship or the dread of legal proceedings, of what use, we ask, is that press to the community ?

23 February 1875

FINLAY MUIR & CO.

The proprietors of this journal understand that a summons for defamation has been taken out by Messrs. Finlay, Muir & Co., against Mr. W. H. Targett, the Manager of this office. The proprietors would, therefore, say that, in the case in question, the Indian Statesman has simply done its duty. The vulgar threats of a great firm, here and there, never to advertise therein, may pass for what they are worth. Calcutta has no reason to be ashamed of its one-anna paper and, in spite of the difficulties with which it has had to contend, the paper has, within a month, attained a circulation second only, it is believed, to that of the highest of its contemporaries at this side of India. The proprietors learn by the mail just in, that Mr. Dawson was stopped on his way out by a telegram announcing the serious illness of a sister, and an important communication from the Irish Church Commissioners, concerning certain landed property belonging to him in Ireland, necessitating his presence ; and that it is doubtful whether he will be able to fulfil his engagement with the proprietors.

They are much obliged to Mr. O'Sullivan for kindly consenting to take the editorship on so short a notice, and for conducting its duties so ably.

In Messrs. Jefferson and Payne's estimate of the probable cost of the Gaekwar's defence, inserted marginally in Mr. Aitchison's letter of the 19th instant, to Sir William Pelly, there occurs the following item : –

"Fee to Mr. Woodroffe, of the Calcutta Bar, for one month, Rs. 45,000."

Later information from Calcutta Bombay, however, places it beyond question that Mr. Woodroffe's demand was Rs. 50,000.

Is there a barrister in any High Court in India making on the average Rs. 12,000 a month ?

24 February 1875

BRITISH COMMUNITY IN BOMBAY

It is not creditable to the British community in Bombay that the Municipal Commissioner, with funds in hand, should be unable to get together a sufficient number of its members to decide upon the course the disbursement should take. Mr. Pedder had handed over to him the residue of a fund, which was raised by Europeans in order to provide house accommodation at Aden. The requirements for which the fund was raised, exist no longer and General Barr, as trustee of the Fund has handed the sum of Rs. 9,000 over to Mr. Pedder, to do as he thinks best with, but suggests the erection of a public swimming bath.

26 February 1875

NATIVES IN JUDICIAL SERVICE

A report that Government contemplates appointing twenty-three native selected gentlemen to judicial appointments of the classes hitherto exclusively filled by Covenanted Civilians, has made its way into the journals, and, as was to be apprehended has attracted much attention. The statement, however, is wholly erroneous.

27 February 1875

REPORT ON FAMINE

Sir Richard Temple's Report on the famine, and the operations in alleviation of it, was published yesterday, in an Extra Supplement to the Gazette of India. It gives a clear and full account of the origins of the scarcity, of the manner in which it declared itself ; of the general plan of relief operations ; of the measures which were carried out, and of their results – on all which subjects Sir Richard Temple's excellent narrative conveying so full and accurate information.

It is beyond the question that the cause of the events which occurred in 1874 must be sought for in scantiness of the rains in 1873, throughout Bengal and Bihar. It is now assumable that the total net cost of the relief operations will not exceed the sum of Rs. 6,500,000, and that a balance of about 100,000 tons of rice remained after the relief operations had been concluded.

These official papers set at rest the ill-minded query which a few months ago used, so often, to find its way into print. Was famine really imminent, or was the alarm of scarcity a false one? It is past all doubt that positive and divest famine there would have been, had not – and for the first time in modern history – the evil been averted by the unparallelled efforts of the Government of India.

27 February 1875

SALE LAWS

Among the questions raised by Sir George Campbell, and still under the consideration of Government, is that of the relaxation of the stringency of the Sale Laws. At present, whenever a default occurs in the payment of revenue, the collector sells the estate affected by public auction, and that the purchaser acquires not merely the rights of the defaulter, but a clear title to the estate as against all the world, including the holders of subtenures. The rigour of this system has been objected to by many.

1 March 1875

INDIAN POST OFFICE

One of the gravest evils with which the Indian Post Office has to contend, consists in the deep-rooted native habit of using for purposes of the post the flimsiest of paper, and of folding it so minutely as to leave no room for the direction;

these directions are spread over the whole space available on both sides of the cover, and the confusion is enhanced by the post marks which, for want of space, have to be impressed on the address itself. As a remedy, therefore, envelopes embossed with half-anna and one-anna stamps were offered for sale at the value of the stamps they bore, no charge being made for the paper. This change commenced from July 1873, and at once became very popular. The demand for embossed envelopes far exceeded the most sanguine estimate, so much so, that in four months the Superintendent of Stamps at Calcutta exhausted a supply which would otherwise have lasted a quarter of a century.

1 March 1875

NATIVE ENGINE DRIVERS

Adverting to the Government mania, for Railway reduction and the appointment of native engine drivers a writer in the Indian Railway Service Gezette very pertinently observes, "Place the entire railway service in the hands of natives ;— in the case of a political struggle or the repetition of the outbreak of 1857, will the Government fully depend for the transhipment of its troops and ammunition on the native staff ? Could a native be trusted with such an wholesale source of destruction as the locomotive of a troop train ?"

2 March 1875

EDUCATION OF THE POORER CLASSES

Prolific an official writer as His Honour of Bengal has continuously been no sounder or more judicious paper has, we venture to say, ever amanated from him than is that minute "On the Education of the Poorer Classes of Europeans and East Indians in Calcutta", which yesterday achieved the light of publication. The educational means available for

the poorest classes of Europeans and East Indians in the provinces and the Presidency Towns, has for some time past been under the consideration of the various minor governments, in compliance with a circular requisition from the Government of India, calling for information and opinion on the subject. Says Sir Richard Temple : –

"The subject was prominently brought to the notice of the local Government by a despatch from the Government of India, dated 9th March, 1874. It has subsequently undergone much public discussion. After consulting the authorities most conversant with the matter, I desire, first, to state my opinion in respect to the Presidency Town of Calcutta, which, in many respects, differ from all other places in these provinces, leaving the questions relating to the provinces for subsequent consideration. With this view I have obtained from the Commissioner of Police in Calcutta (the Hon'ble Stuart Hogg), a complete statement of existing institutions in Calcutta, which statement affords a statistical basis for my proposals."

There seems to an opinion entertained in many quarters that in some classes of poor Europeans and East Indians, the children are growing up in ignorance, that this state of things is calculated to be detrimental to the public interest and to bring discredit upon the government of the country. Among other classes of Europeans and East Indians concerned that is, classes receiving less than Rs 300 per mensem or £360 per annum, there are no. 2,549 children at school or under tuition, 1,503 too young for school, and 1,275 not at school but who might and ought to be there. This number is made up of the following proportions : –

Europeans					
Boys	122	Girls	132	Total	254
East Indians					
Boys	422	Girls	599	Total	1021
				Grand Total	1275

In other words, one child out of every three children may be said to be growing up in ignorance.

In fact, there is not any European or East Indian destitution, to speak of, in the city. There are firms in Calcutta, that could and would, find employment for scores of number of Europeans and East Indians, could they only feel assured that men of those classes would work zealously and regularly at rates of remuneration as much in advance of those now paid to the natives who do the work, as, in such positions, the services of a European and East Indian would, be of more value than those of a native. We much question whether, were the would-be employees and the destitute unemployed brought into communication, the response of the majority of the latter would not be :—

"These are not fair rates of remuneration to offer a European or Christian in this country. They are nearly as low as you would get a native to work for."

"How comes it" asks His Honor, "that about one thousand children of poor Europeans and East Indians in Calcutta fail to go school ?"

To that question we subjoin the Lieutenant-Governor's own answer :—

"They do not go because...the schools are too far from their homes, they being unable to walk any distance in the hot weather or to afford any sort of coveyance...the fees and schooling charges, though very moderate or even low, are still more than the parents can afford to pay; because the existing institutions are seldom receiving the full amount of grant-in-aid to which they might be entitled, and are, therefore, unable to establish as many branch schools as they might have otherwise established ; because in some of the very poorest of the classes concerned, the parents do not see fit or do not care, for various reasons, to send their children to school.

Under the above view of the case, and after consulting Mr. Atkinson, the Director of Public Instruction, Mr. Woodrow

and Mr. Clarke, Inspectors of Schools, I propose first to invite the co-operation of the existing bodies and private societies interested in education, and to allow them grants-in-aid, on application being made by them, within the limits, and under the conditions of the existing rules. These... given for... affording education to the children of Europeans and East Indians with incomes below Rs. 300 per mensem and on the condition of this object being attained to the satisfaction of the Government Inspectors."

Sir Temple is unable to state precisely the additional sum which will be needed in the shape of grants-in-aid, but estimates that it will not be larger than the provincial finance can afford.

4 March 1875

THE MAHOMEDAN LITERARY SOCIETY

The eleventh annual conversazione, in connection with the Mahomedan Literary Society, at the Town Hall, on Tuesday evening was a great success. The attendance was very good, and among the distinguished visitors were : –

H. H. Sir R. Temple ; H. E. Lord Napier of Magdala ; Sir W. Muir ; H.H. Maharajah Holkar; H. H. the Maharajah of Vizianagram, Maharajah Jyemungul Singh Bahadoor of Gidhoor; Maharajah Koomar Hurendro Kishore Singh Bahadoor, of Betteah, Sir Madhava Rao and the Envoy from the King of Burmah.

The visitors were received by the office bearers of the Society, including the President – Kazee Abdool Baree. Vice-President – Prince Mahoomed Ruheemodeen, of the Mysore family, members of the committee of management and the Secretary.

There were excellent displays of telegraphy and electricity and illustrations of other branches of natural science, as also

a rich show of illustrated works, rare and valuable articles, photography, native art etc.

5 March 1875

BARODA AFFAIRS

In connection with the strongly disloyal and seditious character of the articles on Baroda affairs with which the vernacular papers now teem, we observe that the Hon'ble Lieutenant-Governor of the N.-W. Provinces considered it necessary to extinguish a native journal last year for indulging in language calculated to excite hatred and contempt of the English (paper) power. The paper alluded to, says the Delhi Gazette, was the Kavivachan Sudha, and the editor, Baboo Haris Chunder. After having served for some years as an Honorary Magistrate, the Baboo wished to be appointed as a Stipendiary Magistrate, and consequently brought to the late Lieutenant-Governor's notice the paucity of work in his Court—his latent motive being that His Honor would consider him a hard-working and zealous officer, and offer him the post of Deputy Magistrate. Sir William Muir, however, being ignorant of the man's real motive, forwarded the letter to the Commissioner of the Benares Division for disposal. His first letter was followed by a direct application soliciting the post he so much coveted, but not having met with the success he anticipated, he occasionaly wrote articles in which he did not only scuriliously attack the measures of Government, but frequently evinced such malignity against Government officers, that even his own countrymen expressed their surprise at the forbearance of the Lieutenant-Governor. The article which led the Government to take such serious notice of his conduct was a personal attack of a most vindictive nature on Sir Muir. As he was never respected and esteemed by his countrymen, no one sympathised with him, or regretted the loss of his honorary rank. With the loss of Government

patronage, the Baboo was compelled to discontinue the publication of Kavivachan Sudha.

5 March 1875

ZEMINDARS AND RYOTS

...We take the following extract from the Bengal Times : –

"Very lately a happy effort was made to bring about a healthy understanding between the zemindars and their ryots in the Moonshegunge Sub-district. It appears that the former had demanded an enhancement of rent equal to four annas per rupee, half of which the ryots were willing to pay, but stoutly resisted the higher rate. By a little tact and management, our District Superintendent, who is an excellent linguist, managed to adjust matters amicably, and promoting a good understanding, got both parties to settle their differences in a friendly spirit."

Here we have the agency of the police used to adjust a dispute on the delicate subject of the raising of the rent rate. ...If we need such a doubtful light as a policeman of tact and management and an excellent linguist, must we not on the same subject require the common security of an authentic record ? The ryots of Moonshegunge must be very unlike those of the rest of Bengal, if they are not prepared on the first occasion to deny that they gave a full and voluntary consent to the enhancement. The zemindars may have servants who hereafter falsely represent that a particular ryot who never appeared in the office, did consent. There would also arise a question as to whether undue influence was, or was not, excersised on a particular ryot. And yet under the existing law no effort is made to secure at the time an authentic record of facts which are so likely to be subsequently misrepresented.

In the N.-W. Provinces the matter would be differently

managed. There each ryot would receive a formal notice through the Collector, giving him an opportunity to dispute it. If he remained quiet, the proof that the notice had been served, would infer his assent. It would however, be better if he had to appear and give a direct assent. There can be little doubt, that such a rule is even more required here than it is in the N.-W. Provinces, and if it were established, there would be no necessity for enforcing the elaborate system of 1833.

6 March 1875

MAHARAJAH HOLKAR

(From Our Own Correspondent)

Benaras. March 5, 1875.

I should imagine, were I not so sceptical, that the waters of "the Holy Gunga" washing the shores of "this most" sacred city were troubled yesterday by the almost incessant roar of artillery that was kept up. At 10 a.m. His Highness the Maharajah Holkar, drove in from Calcutta, I believe, and was saluted by 19 guns from the Battery of Queen's Artillery, here an equal number apparently, but no doubt more of their Highnesses the Maharajahs of Benaras and Vizianagram accompanying it. About a quarter of an hour afterwards Mr. Girdlestone, the Resident at Nepaul arrived and received his salutation of 13 guns. Then, to terminate the day at 5 p.m. 19 guns boomed forth in honour of the presence of Sir Jung Bahadoor G.C.B., K.C.S.I. who had evidently changed his mind about staying at Benaras enroute. He will no doubt pay a visit to the very pretty Nepaulese "Swiss-chalet kind of" temple and do his devoirs.

The weather here is a bit muggy.... Are the people not lazy here ? A solitary individual in the shape of your correspondent is all that is to be seen in early morn at a constitutional.

9 March 1875

SIR HENRY MAINE'S NEW WORK

When the history of learning and science in the 19th century comes to be written, not the least striking or instructive chapter will be that which the historian traces the rise and growth of what are called the historical and comparative methods of inquiry. Notwithstanding the singular development which science, in nearly all its branches, has received in these latter times, it may be confidently affirmed that the special characteristics of the scientific method of the present century are to be found in its application of the principle of comparison to all enquiries which admit of it, in its devotion to historical studies, and its determination to approach all questions relating to human nature from a strictly historical and empirical point of view. It has created for instance, the science of what it is no paradox to call pre-historic history. ...

10 March 1875

THE HASTINGS' BRIDGE

Extract (paragraphs 1 to 6 and 8) from a Resolution, No. 1172, dated the 8th March 1875, of the Hon'ble the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal in the Public Works Department (Local-Communications).

Remarks : The submission of the proposals for restoring the Hastings' Bridge over Tolly's Nullah has been very much delayed, and the Superintendent Engineer ascribes this to the great pressure of work that has existed in his office and in that of the Executive Engineer, which prevented the consideration of projects for a new bridge untilt he arrival of additional Executive Engineer at the beginning of December last.

The exigencies of carrying on Relief Works in the distressed districts, rendered it necessary to take from the remaining districts and divisions every man that could possibly be

spared. On all sides much that was required has been necessarily left undone, and the Lieutenant-Governor accepts the explanation which has been afforded regarding the delay.

The question of keeping up the communication across the mouth of Tolly's Nullah by means of a bridge, has been under discussion with the Superintending Engineer.

One project contemplated a temporary timber bridge between the abutments of the Hastings' Bridge, but this would have to be closed when the operations for putting up the permanent bridge were commenced, and the convenience to the public arising therefrom, could only last for a short time.

A floating bridge could be easily put up, but the approaches to it would be very steep, and it would be necessary to open it frequently, at least once a day, at such time as would suit for the passage of boats, with reference to the tide. Heavy traffic could not use such a bridge and foot traffic is sufficiently provided for at present.

The projects for a permanent bridge having now been received, it is expected that including arrangements with the contractors, the bridge may be completed within a year, and the Lieutenant-Governor has determined on not constructing a temporary bridge. The Superintending Engineer will be directed to push on the arrangements for the new bridge with reference to the instructions in the following paragraph.

The Executive Engineer may at once collect bricks and put the masonry of arproaches in hand, agreeably to the design which has been submitted and no time should be lost in arranging with the contractors.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.
J. E. T. Nicolls, Colonel R. E.
Secy. to the Govt. of Bengal P. W. D.

11 March 1875

RAJA ROMANATH TAGORE

Raja Romanath Tagore has vacated his seat in the Governor-General's Council, not through illness, but he has, it seems gone out by rotation. If the Rajah be not re-appointed a member of the council, Rajah Joteendromohun Tagore, as we stated the other day, will most likely be appointed to fill the vacant seat.

11 March 1875

ZEMINDARS AND RYOTS

The long raging contention between the zemindars and ryots on the banks of the Megna which at times culminated in murderous riots, promises to come to a peaceful conclusion. Both parties have appointed arbitrators, and agreed to abide by their decision as regards the rates of rent and all questions incidentally connected with it. The Commissioner, Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police were on the spot with a view to the amicable settlement of differences between the subjects and their landlords.

...Old privileges die out with those who held them, and landlords now extract agreements which, defeating the object of our law, render the acquisition of new rights impossible. A proof of this fact is to be found in Sir Richard Temple's recent report. He says that in Eastern and Central Bengal, the cesses are not excessive, and are no more than the zemindars are entitled to in another form, but in the Presidency and Burdwan Divisions "exhorbitant cesses are not excessive, and are no more than the full value of their lands as rent." Now, these are the parts of the country in which both the poor and the rich have the best easy access to the Courts, and all the other advantages of regular Government. 'In the course of time every district may become like the Twenty-four Pergunnahs and Burdwan. How, then, can Sir Richard hold

that, in the course of improvement, matters will adjust themselves? It is clear, from his own report, that the more thoroughly our present system is enforced, the more are the ground down; that moderation and prosperity are to be found only in the distant and neglected parts of these Provinces, and that we must anticipate that, when the influences now at work round Calcutta have reached every corner of Bengal, the cultivators of the whole country will be subjected to a rack-rent. This, we say, is the reasonable inference from the facts noted by Sir Richard, and not that which he seems to draw, that the exactions taken from ryots are possible only when they are ignorant, and will cease when they are educated.

12 March 1875

RYOTS' RIOT

It is reported that an application having been made to the Magistrate on behalf of Baboo Jogodish Nath Roy of Joymundeep in Manickgunge, for stationing a police force there, as his ryots were in open mutiny threatening to attack his house, Baboo Brojo Soonder Mitter, aided by an adequate police force, has been deputed to the spot to keep the peace. Riots, we see, have now become fashionable among ryots.

It is now generally known that the ryots of Dacca and several other districts are in open mutiny against their zemindars and refuse payment of rent at anything above five annas a pakhee per annum, the rate alleged to have been fixed by His Excellency the Viceory during his late visit to Dacca. But few, we believe know that the ryots of Hashara in Vikrampore have gone a step further. We hear they formed a combination and signed an agreement, by which they bound themselves never to be reconciled to their zemindars, and to pay a fine of rupees one thousand to their leaders and counsellors in the event of their committing a breach of the terms of this

agreement. We hear, this curious agreement is duly signed, stamped and registered and the Sub-Registrar of Sreenugger, in whose office the document has been registered, refused to grant an attested copy thereof to the agents of the zemindars, on the ground that they are not parties to the deed! The agents are next said to have applied to the District Magistrate of Dacca, who has caused the District Sub-Registrar to send for the Sreenugger Sub-Registry Book, and to ascertain if such a document has really been executed and registered, in the face of his proclamation that whoever circulates false reports with a view to foment the existing ill-feeling between ryots and zemindars will be severely punished.

12 March 1875

PLAGIARISM

Letter to the Editor of the Englishman

Sir, – Your contemporary, the Calcutta Statesman has been fortunate enough, I see, to secure the services of a very able reviewer. The learned criticism that appears the issue of today of Sir Henry Maine's new work on English Institutions leads me to expect great things from his pen. A friend of mine with a pretty good memory thinks he has read something like it in the last batch of the Times that have come to hand, but he is probably mistaken.

TULIT ALTER HONORES

NOTE – The review was marked in the Times for extraction by the Editor of the Indian Statesman, and made over to the printer with a direction to acknowledge it as from the journal. The latter forgot or overlooked that direction, and hence the above letter, which we feel tempted say was concocted in the Englishman office. At any rate, the Englishman should not have published such a complaint unless assured that a communication to the same purport had been sent to the Indian Statesman and refused publication. We do not

wonder at the Englishman feeling sore and jealous at the success of the Indian Statesman, which, though not two months in existence has already a circulation larger than his own. ED. S.

12 March 1875

LAND SYSTEM IN BURDWAN

(Editorial)

The Magistrate of Burdwan has observed in a published report that, in his district, the demand for land is so great that the landlords can make their own terms with their tenants. These terms are recorded in leases, but as a lease, however hard its provisions, binds down him who grants it in some measure, the zemindars do not register these documents. As, by our present law, an unregistered lease is null and void, the ryots who depend only on such documents for their holdings are tenants-at-will. ...Now, we would ask, why are the ryots of Burdwan so much worse off than their neighbours ? Why do they submit to be rack-rented to the degree of poverty, while their fellows in other districts are in a comparatively comfortable position ? We fear that but one answer can be given to this question. The British rule has been established in Burdwan more thoroughly and completely than elsewhere. It has had two effects, the one inevitable the other avoidable. In the first place it has led to an enormous increase in the population. We have put an end to famine, and infanticide ; and the natural tendency of oriental nations to increase and multiply has produced its results. Burdwan is now the most populous rural district in Bengal, and probably in the world. Then, again, our courts have in a great measure broken down the customs which formerly regulated the rent-rate. They have partially substituted for it a system of competition. Now, in an over-populated country where the land is cultivated by peasants, and rents are fixed by competition, the condition

of agriculture and of the people must necessarily be miserable.

...There is yet time for a wise and effective interference, but that time is passing away. But if we wait much longer, our task will be a more difficult one. In another generation the land will be so tied up by contracts, based on competition, that any attempt to return to the older and better system will seem rash and may prove vain. This is certainly the most important question of the day. The progress which the country is making in manufactures and in trade should not blind our eyes to the fact that the economical condition of its agriculture is retrogressive, and that if nothing is done to stop the action of the forces which we have set to work, Bengal must soon become a province of serfs, cultivatd by tenants-at-will holding at a rack-rent.

13 March 1875

N.-W. PROVINCES

The quarreling among the Oudh and Rohilkund Railway servants at the station of Hurdui still continues. It would seem to be a war of a race against race, the station-masters who are Bengalis are at variance with their Hindustani subordinates, and these latter are bringing one case after another against their Baboo superiors. The station master who was acquitted on a serious charge against a woman a week or two ago is now prosecuted by her husband, who, it is said, has been purposely brought from a remote corner of the District of Unao by the unfortunate Baboo's vengeance seeking underlings.

—Lucknow Times.

17 March 1875

VARIORUM

The following statistics published by the Annales du Com. merce Exterieur are of interest :—Out of 2,200,000 watches manufactured in Europe and America in 1870, Switzerland alone contributed 1,630,030; France holding the second place but greatly behind produced 300,000 ; England 200,000 and the United States 100, 000. The canton of Vaud confines its labours generally to making the works exported to the number of 150,000. The canton of Berne supplies the greater part of the ordinary watch—about 500,000 yearly. Geneva, devoted to the manufacture of the better sort, makes 150,000 a year. The canton of Neufchatel is the most productive, alike in quantity and quality, yielding one half of the total value. Hitherto the observatory at Neufchatel has done the most for the regulation of watches. The variations which is in 1862 averged 1.61 seconds per watch per day, did not exceed 0.57 second in 1868. As regards chronometers out of 99 submitted in 1868, 50 gave less than half a second of variation in twenty-four hours, and eight gave little more than one second.

17 March 1875

THE NANA SAHEB

(Correspondence)

To the Editor of the Indian Statesman

Sir, A little bit of a novel named "Shunkur", recently published by Low and Co. of London, has for its hero the notorious Nana Saheb of Bithoor. It is a regular catch-penny affair ; but at the same time treasonour in every page. The Nana is represented as a boldwarrious, who escapes by blowing out the brains of a Captain Neville in the Terai. Every sepoy is held up as patriot. The two scoundrels in the novel are both Europeans, and with rather remarkable names. The

great and estimable Mullick family of Calcutta, is bluntly charged with the grave crime of murder. The name of the author has been wisely witheld.—Yours etc.,

J. P. L.

18 March 1875

THE PREVENTIVE SERVICE

It is said that great changes are in contemplation in the Preventive Service. There are at present nine grades, consisting of a hundred and twenty-seven officers, and the salaries of the nine grades are as follows:—1st grade, Rs. 200; 2nd grade, Rs. 275; 3rd, Rs. 250; 4th, Rs. 225; 5th, Rs. 200; 6th, Rs. 175; 7th, Rs. 150; 8th, Rs. 125; and 9th, Rs. 100. It is proposed to reduce the number to 125, and to add a tenth grade consisting of some thirty officers, to be promoted from the extra or supernumerary list, which at present numbers about a hundred, the salary to be fixed at Rs. 175 per month. The promotion is to take place by seniority according to the standing of the officers in the service. It has also been suggested to the Government by the Collector of Customs that the officers should wear a uniform.

18 March 1875

INDIAN IMMIGRANTS

(Editorial)

From an abstract showing the result of emigration from the Port of Calcutta during January last, we observe that the number of emigrants who left India were 3,181, and that the pastures of Jamaica are more popular with the coolies of this country, than those of either Trinidad, Natal, Mauritius, or the French Colonies. We well remember the time when the Isle of France possessed the greatest charms for Indian emigrants; but at present Jamaica scores 821, (one of whom is a Christian) to 404 for the Mauritius. The N.-W. Provinces

appear to have contributed the largest number (1,641) of emigrants, and Eastern Bengal the smallest (4). The great majority of these people are of low caste, but we observe there were no less than 483 Brahmins and men of high caste among them.

22 March 1875

LAND DISPUTES

(Editorial)

We have been much amused by the way in which some of the organs of the zemindari interest in this country have spoken of the policy of Sir Richard Temple in the matter of land disputes. They have seen that he treats landlords with the suavity which he extends to all classes, and that he has been very free in his thanks for their service during the famine. From such premises they infer that he will reverse the British policy of a hundred years ; break forever with the masses, and betray their rights to the small body which seeks unbounded gain, and unbounded power. The Dacca Prakash gravely tells us that a hundred special police are to be quartered on a single estate at the expense of the ryots, who will then be glad to get out of a scrape they have got into with a baboo who has recently brought an interest in their village. The Hindu Patriot demands a change in the law, with the object of enabling zemindars to realise rent summarily, without having to prove that it is due. That is to say, the vernacular paper hopes to see the ryots crushed by a dragoonade, while its more skillful ally would rather have them tortured by an unjust law.

The immediate occasion of these proposals is differently described according to the consciences of those who undertake to portray its features. "It is now generally known" says the Bengal Times, "that the ryots of this and several other districts are in open mutiny against their zemindars, and refuse the payment of rent at anything above five anna a

pukhee per annum, the rate alleged to have been fixed by His Excellency the Viceroy on the occasion of his visit to Dacca." The Hindu Patriot while quoting this absurd canard, lets us know the real state of the case : "The dispute we believe is this – ryots now pay from 12 to 14 annas per bega ; the zemindar claims from 18 to 20." It would appear that the ryots have formed a combination to resist the landlord. The zemindars have organised a combination for the protection of their own class interests, and one that extends all over Bengal. Government has not interfered with them though so extensive a union might easily be used for bad purpose. They must not object to the petty local combination of the ryots. These can never be a political danger in Eastern Bengal. In fact, the ryots cannot possibly protect their interest unless they combine. In zemindari disputes landlords generally have recourse to violence, and a tenant unsupported by his fellows would, by opposing the great man, run the risk of having his house pulled down and his family dishonoured. A defensive organisation is absolutely required in a village which has refused to pay a demand, whether an illegal cess or an enhancement of rent. Then, no one ryot has sufficient funds to meet the cost of litigation on a large scale. Every ryot has an interest in preventing a precedent for enhancement being established, and every ryot should therefore, subscribe to defend such cases. Combinations for these objects, mutual defence, mutual support in litigation are not only legal, but necessary, and they have existed in Bengal from time immemorial.

We think that there can be no doubt as to the policy which will be pursued by the Government in the present rent dispute. No grinding laws will be enacted against ryots ; no military or police demonstration will be made to overawe or oppress them; no encouragement will be given to illegal demands to false charges, or exaggerated statements. The local officers will see that order is preserved, and that those who commit breaches of the law are punished. They will probably find far less to do in this way than they would at first anticipate –

the agrarian disturbances reported in zemindari papers are often altogether imaginary. To both parties will be spoken words of sensible advice. If they cannot agree the courts will remain open for settlement of their disputes in a regular manner. Should legislation become necessary, it will take the form which it assumed in the N.-W. Provinces, that of preventing the enhancement of rent by irregular means, and at frequent intervals. In no case will the Government ever abandon the body of ryots, to which its primary duty is owing, and upon whose support it confidently relies.

24 March 1875

TEA MANUFACTURE

According to our Darjeeling contemporary, tea manufacture is going on steadily on the Terai gardens, and a considerable amount of tea has already been made there. "It will probably be found that the tea manufactured during the early portion of this season will be of far superior quality to any made in this district for several years."

In the hills several gardens are plucking, and nearly all will be at work by the end of this week, although no large amount of tea will have been made on any hill estate before the first week in April.

There are also glowing accounts of the prospects of some of the new gardens in the Dooars.

24 March 1875

BABU'S PLIGHT

A native wealthy but uneducated, seeing the other day in one of Messrs. Cook & Co.'s catalogues that some herons were for sale, asked a friend what sort of an animal a heron was. His friend jumping to an unsound conclusion, replied

that the word was intended as an English rendering of the native word Hooring, an antelope. Upon this the native ordered his sircar to attend at the auction and bid for the herons, marking at the same time the lot in the catalogue, and stating the sircar could go as far as Rs 14 for each. As there was no higher bid, the auctioneer said that the sircar might take the whole lot, and accordingly seven lots were entered in the Baboo's name. The Babu was quite elated and ordered his servant to take the money and clear the lot at once. When the servant returned with the herons, the Babu as might be expected, looked at his bargain with amazement, and said—"What have you done : why, I told you to bid for hoorings and you have brought me these jungly birds, what am I to do with them ? I would not give a rupee for the whole lot." He ordered his carriage and drove down to Cook & Co. with the birds, and explained to them how the mistake had occurred. Messrs. Cook & Co. of course regretted their inability to cancel the sale, and could only refer the purchaser to the seller of the birds. The Babu next called on the seller and offered to give him the birds if he would return him half the money. The seller said that he was very sorry he could not oblige the Babu. He certainly had got a good price for the birds, but they were very rare ones.

24 March 1875

COORG REGIMENT (Editorial)

The hardy mountain race of Coorg has always been marked as a class of right loyal subjects, and our Bangalore contemporary "is therefore glad to hear from the lips of a respected European officer of the Mysore Commission, that the Government of India contemplate the raising of pure Coorg regiment."

This statement is very likely to prove correct. The policy of the Government of India in the Military Department has long been to diversify, as far as practicable the material of which the native army is composed. Regiments of Burmans,

for example, would long ago have been raised, but for two very excellent reasons. Our Burman subjects are so well off that they would scoff at the rate of pay we vouchsafe our sepoys ; and no matter how well we paid them, would not do night work. The Burman does not actually object to being posted as a sentry at night, but, revisited five minutes after having been posted, he is certain to be found stretched out at length, and fast asleep. They are a merry rather than a drowsy people, but they do not understand being kept out of bed after hours.

25 March 1875

INDIAN BRANDY (Editorial)

"If there is a subject", says a London correspondent, "on which the judgement of India can be said to be arrete, it is surely the supremacy of Exshaw No 1 brandy. Now, if I am right, or rather my informant, who certainly ought to be, even Exshaw's No 1 has no particular trade reputation, except as having an incomprehensible vogue in India. As brandy, it is said to be inferior to both Martell's and Henessey's, and far below Planet's, which is the best in the market. Further, I am assured there is no John Exshaw, or any Exshaw at all in the brandy business. The firm which uses the brand of Exshaw is that of Offley and Cramp ; but, then again, there is strictly speaking, no Offley and Cramp either – that is, there is no Offley and no Cramp. The real owners of Exshaw's brandy are some brothers of the name of Forrester, and it is a friend of one of these Forresters who has given me this information. This friends' foible ccrtainly is omniscience, but I have never been able to prove him wrong. Here is another of his items, that Kinahan – of course you know Kinahan's LL Irish Whisky – is not even a distiller ; he is an enterprising grocer who has invented a brand and made a name and a fortune, thought he has never made a single bottle of whisky."

27 March 1875

SELLING GIRLS

Selling girls for immoral purposes.—A case is at present pending before the Deputy Magistrate of Moonsigunge in which one Sreemonto of Burdwan and Natobor and Koilash of Mednipore are charged with having brought away nine women and girls from the Burdwan district and to have sold some of them in this district. Natobor has been arrested and is now in hajat. The police cannot find out the whereabouts of the other two.

27 March 1875

BEHAR UPAKAR SABHA

Associations are the order of the day. We learn that the Hindu zemindars and other gentlemen of Patna have formed themselves into an association called the Behar Upakar Sabha, with the object of ventilating the social and political grievances of the people of Behar. The Association contemplates opening branches in other Districts.—The members at their first meeting could not agree among themselves as to whether Mahomedans would be eligible as members.

—Ibid.

25 March 1875

PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE SUBURBS OF CALCUTTA

The Mortuary return of suburbs for the month of February 1875, shows the number of deaths to be 888, viz. 12 Christians, 589 Hindus, and 287 Mahomedans. The ratio of the mortality per thousand of the population per year is 41.43 and the causes of the decease were Cholera 170, Small-pox 32, Fever 241, Bowel-complaint 194, and the rest from other causes.

27 March 1875

FATAL ACCIDENT

A native, while passing Jaun Bazar Street on the 17th instant, was kicked by a stray horse and sustained a fracture of one of his legs. He was first removed to the Chandney Hospital, and afterwards to the Mayo Hospital, where he remained under treatment till last Wednesday when he expired. The corpse was removed to the Dead House, of the Medical College Hospital, where the Coroner and a Jury viewed the body preliminary to the inquest which will be held on the afternoon of the 30th instant.

27 March 1875

THE DELHI DURBAR

His Excellency the Viceroy arrived here under the usual salute, at about 7.30 a.m. on the 17th instant. His Excellency was received by the Civil and Military authorities of the station, together with the Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, at the railway platform, which was beautifully decorated, and was thence conducted to mount the elephant Shahaguz by name, seated inside the compound. As soon as the Viceroy, his Staff Officers and the Lieutenant-Governor had taken their seats on their respective elephants, the procession commenced slowly to move and join the Officers and Chiefs likewise seated on their elephants outside the station compound on the road leading to the Fort.

The procession consisted of about 100 elephants walking abreast by two behind that of the Lieutenant-Governor of Punjab, at a distance of about 50 paces. It passed through Dariba and Chandney-Chowk outside the Lahore Gate, troops being drawn out on both sides of the road.

The Viceroy, the Lieutenant-Governor and his Staff Officers having halted in a row on a spot fixed for the purpose, the other elephants made a "marching passed" saluting the Governor-General. The spectacle was indeed very grand and

reflects great credit upon those who had the management of the elephant procession and the idea of having one.

The Viceroy dismounting from the elephant went direct to his camp, formed on the old cantonment. His Excellency held a levee in the afternoon, in which the European and native officers were present.

On the morning of the 18th the Viceroy received in a private Durbar the Maharajah of Patiala, the Rajahs of Jheend, Nabha, Fridcote, Mundee, Kulsia, Guleri, and the Mohomedan Chiefs of Bahawalpore and Malerkotla. On the morning of the 19th, the Chiefs of Karalee, Bhurtpore, Ulwar, Shahpora, Chumba, Doojana Pataudee and Loharu similarly had their interviews, entering and going out the Viceregal camp under the salute of guns to which they are entitled to. On the evening of the same day the Viceroy paid return visits to the 4 celebrated Chiefs of Punjab, in their respective camps. On the morning of the 20th instant, the Viceroy finished paying return visits to the Princes of Rajputana.

The 21st being Sunday, there was nothing particular to chronicle, but the following day the review of the troops took place, and the 23rd was fixed for Public Durbar.

—Sadadarsha.

27 March 1875

IMPERIAL GAZETTEER (Editorial)

The Press, so far as that Estate has spoken, is unanimous in approving of the arrangement suggested by Dr. W. Hunter, under which really great work of preparing district, provincial and imperial gazetteers for India, is henceforth to be mainly carried on in England. The Englishman, Pioneer and Bombay Gazette have commended the arrangements and on social grounds. Dr. Hunter has already completed accounts of 17 Bengal districts, and collected the materials for the others. The reduction of the latter to the fore requisite for insertion in the gazetteers is a labour that can be accomplished at home

at least as well as in this country, and at a much smaller expenditure on literary assistance. The Bengal District Gazetteers upwards of forty in all, could not, it had been ascertained, have been completed in this country, under four years, whereas, under the present arrangement, it is confidently expected that Dr. Hunter's labours will be brought to a close sometime towards the close of 1876. Provincial and District Gazetteers of the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, the North-Western Provinces, the Punjab, Sind and Mysore and Coorg are respectively being compiled in those provinces, and others have already been completed, but all the gazetteers, district and provincial, for all India, will, we understand, be ultimately submitted to Dr. Hunter, in order to the judicious condensation of their substance into an Imperial Gazetteer of, say, four or six volumes. Thus, as a descriptive and statistical undertaking, the Gazetteers of India, imperial, provincial and district, will not only form a not small library of themselves, but surpass, and by a long way, any undertaking of the kind ever carried out by any of the great governments of the world. The cost of the whole work though necessarily large, will, moreover, be less than with regard to its present contemplated dimensions could have been anticipated. During Dr. Hunter's absence in England special statistical compilations connected with the Gazetteer scheme, will be carried on in Bengal by five junior civilians deputed to the duty in different parts of the province.

2 April 1875

EDUCATION IN BENGAL (Editorial)

The educational work which we are doing in Bengal, as shewn in the last annual report, must be regarded with some complacency. A thousand students in the University, fifty-seven thousand in our English schools, so many in the superior Bengali institutions, so many in the primary classes, in all four hundred and sixty-three thousand pupils. The

great school-master, the State, has to deal with a full house ; he is doing a roaring business, and is anxious to increase it. These figures are those of last year ; by this time we must have half a million upon our hands, and it is understood that we will not be satisfied until the greater part of each generation is educated in our schools. We are commencing to ask, what has been the fruit of the seed we have so freely scattered ? It was good seed, the result of many centuries of cultivation, and we thought it fell on a fertile soil. The Hindus of Bengal have one great advantage in literature over almost every other nation. They contain among them a very large class of men who have not to work for their living, and have, therefore, leisure to cultivate their own minds. It is true that these persons are poor, according to our ideas, and if we had only such incomes as most of them possess, we would consider ourselves bound to labour at some trade or profession. But this is of little consequence. The Brahmins and Kyasts who possess fractional shares in their small estates have as much as their fathers and live in their native villages without doing any work. Their traditions are favourable to literary pursuits and they have none of the taste for field sports and social pleasure which distract English country gentlemen from study. ...Many nations have been civilised by external influences, but only three have been able to develop a civilisation of their own. The Hindus are one of this distinguished triumvirate. The first two sciences known, logic and grammar, were separately and independently discovered by the Hindus and Greeks, and by no other race of men. The remains of Sanskrit poetry show what the Hindus could achieve in works of the imagination. Nor should the anticipations founded on the ancient glories of Hindu literature be abandoned on account of the long period during which the intellect of India remained inactive. That was the effect of causes which have now almost ceased to operate. In India, as in Egypt learning was prematurely wedded to religion. Its dogmas were sanctified as truths not to be doubted ; its first

guesses were declared to contain all that could be known – the revelation of God to man. This prevented all progress. Science in her childhood was placed on a pedestal and worshipped as a goddess, when she required the free use of her limbs to secure a healthy growth. The works of the early poets were considered sacred and imitation would have been profanity. And so it remained with the Hindus until the last generation. But now these traditions have altogether disappeared. The Hindu religion is, indeed, still vigorous, but it has escaped only by cutting itself away from the sciences to which it had been so long fettered. The country is now filled with educated natives, and an educated native is trained exactly as a European, in matters literary. India has entered the commonwealth of letters, and she now forms a part of the great world.

6 April 1875

STOCQUELER ON DR. RICHARDSON

Mr. Stocqueler has called attention in the Oriental to Dr. Richardson's paper on alcohol, which was lately read at the Society of Arts, and remarks :

"Manifold as have been the changes in the habits of Anglo-Indian, especially in the direction of the growth of temperance, the consumption of alcohol does not materialy diminish in the 'best regulated families'. The excuses for its use are numerous. It is medicinal, resisting the most inveterate internal attacks ; it is a valuable embrocation in cases of rheumatism, blows, bruises etc., it is a corrective of the impurities of water, and it constitutes with water, a common and necessary beverage ; it is a useful ingredient in a popular pudding and sundry other palatable compositions ; it imparts 'pluck' when dangerous ventures are toward ; it is the most pleasant associate of the cigar ; it, with bitters, promotes digestion ; it is a 'whet' before dinner and a chasse afterwards – it is, at all times and all seasons, a most agreeable 'tipple'. Whether in

the hunting field or the snipe-swamps, or the jungle, the brandy-flask is the invariable associate. A friend is welcomed with 'brandy-pawnee' and a tumbler or so is a common night-cap wherewith mosquitoes may be defied. The is a summary of the arguments in favour of the drink. There is good foundation for some of them ; but, all in all, the extensive use of the article is pernicious. It may save in some cases – it certainly destroys in others."

8 April 1875

CALCUTTA MUNICIPAL ACTS (Editorial)

We have purposely abstained from commenting on Mr. Hogg's Bill to Consolidate and Amend the twelve existing Calcutta Municipal Acts, in order to note the degree of public interest which the measure would excite. The result has been a conviction that beyond the house-owning class – a class nearly altogether native the office bearers and leading members of the British Indian Association, and the more loquacious of the Honorary Justices, nobody seems to care very much about the measure or what may be its fate. This may seem not very encouraging to the hon'ble member who introduced the bill, and on whom doubtless fell the task of designing its framework and general drift ; but Mr. Hogg is broad-shouldered in more senses than one, and however disposed the less serious of the local public may be to occasionally find pleasure in seeing him in "hot water", it is creditable to the hon'ble gentleman that the general feeling as regards him is, that if care be but taken to debar him a too free recourse to the taxing screw, a more active, energetic and generally efficient municipal ruler the city need not desire.

...Mr. Schalch was followed by Baboo Kristo Dass Pal, who though not dissatisfied with the Municipality as at present organised, would, if organic changes were to be made, have the elective principle fully and unrestrictedly admitted. We

have therefore as far as the local legislature is concerned a very influential member who desires that mainly the organisation of the Municipality shall remain as it is; another very influential member, who would have it remodelled on the Bombay plan, or on a modification of that plan; and lastly the spokesman of the local native community who, though he does not object to things being allowed to remain as they are, contends that if there is to be change, it ought to be full and in the right direction; in other words, that the Corporation should be elective.

It is to be hoped that in view of this state of things the Chamber of Commerce and Trades Association will lose no time in conveying their views to the Council, and that the European and Christian community at large will bestir itself to cause its voice to be heard upon a measure which may very seriously affect its future interests. Above all things, that community should protest, and without loss of time, against the adoption of the elective principle. Let that but be adopted, and the Corporation will have been made, not only a completely native institution, but a most powerful instrument in the hands of a few leading natives. So apprehensive are we, we confess, of the evils of a change in that direction, that unwieldy and otherwise objectionable as the present form of Municipality is, we should still desire its maintenance in preferance to the initiation of either Mr. Schalch's or Baboo Kristo Dass Pal's ideals. The Europeans pay the heaviest Municipal cesses, yet are numerically but a small section of the rate-payers. Under a full elective system no European would stand a chance of election. Mr. Schalch's alternative non-elective scheme would be about the best that could be devised, but that it would be regarded as an approach to the unrestricted elective system, and would keep alive native aspirations after that system. The time has not yet come for conceeding to the native community, either municipally or politically, the elective franchise, and everything tending to encourage premature hopes of the kind it's to be deprecated.

We cannot bring ourselves to think that Sir Richard Temple would give his consent to a bill on the elective principles, but as in case of such importance nothing should be left to chance, the European and Christian community will do well to be up and stirring, initiating measures to prevent such an evil as would be the passing of the municipal management of the town wholly into the hands of a knot of the leading natives of the northern division and their nominees.

13 April 1875

PROTECTING VEHICLES FROM THE SUN'S RAYS

While the Railway Authorities are devising means to keep their carriages cool, why should not the inhabitants of Calcutta adopt some plan to protect street vehicles from the heat ? For the last few days an office gharry has been seen in our streets entirely covered with a thick white quilting. This is a contrivance which will doubtless commend itself to many, though it might perhaps be as efficacious to paint the vehicle white in place of covering it. It is a wonder that some plan of this kind has not been adopted before, as also the ingenious contrivance of the topee for horses has not been more generally adopted. A prejudice no doubt exists against the appearance of this equine headgear, but such a prejudice should not be allowed to stand in the way, when the comfort and life of fine animals is in jeopardy from the power of our midday sun.

13 April 1875

SOCIAL CONDITION OF OUDH (Editorial)

It is well-known that the whole social condition of Oudh is founded on an act of confiscation. This word "confiscation" is often applied in a figurative sense to laws modifying the rights of property; but here we mean open intentional naked confiscation. In 1858, after the suppression of mutiny, Lord Canning

published a proclamation in which he confirmed the titles of a few faithful landlords, and declared that with these exceptions, and with the exception of such persons as might establish similar claims upon the favour of the Government, the "proprietary right in the soil of the province was confiscated to the British Government, which would dispose of that right in such manner as to it might seem fitting."

...All existing rights in the soil having been got rid of by this proclamation, Lord Canning had to power to effect any settlement he pleased in the province. Oudh contains a hardy peasantry of high caste and organised into village communities. He could have secured the happiness of the country by making them independent. And as before the act of confiscation they had been the persons with whom the settlement was in general made, it would have been natural, as well as wise, to have taken such a course. He adopted a very different policy. "The maintenance of a territorial aristocracy," he wrote, "is an object of so great importance that we may afford to sacrifice something of a system which, whilst it has increased the independence and protected the rights of the cultivators of the soil and augmented the revenue of the State, has led more or less directly to the extinction or decay of the old nobility of the country." This theory that a native aristocracy is of political use to a foreign conqueror is a fancy of statesmen trained in the school of the landholders of England. It is directly contrary to the well-known maxim of Greece, and Rome, and of all conquering races of modern times, and it has never been adopted by any independent thinker.

14 April 1875

BENGAL FAMINE (Editorial)

As far as can now be learnt from the final published reports, the estimates as to the dimensions of the Bengal famine have not been exaggerated. Both the reports of the Zemindar's Association and the official reports of Sir Richard Temple

and Lord Northbrook, tend to prove that the danger which threatened India is one which may occur again, and which ought to be averted. Persons unacquainted with India can have but little idea of the nature of a famine caused by an utter failure of the rice crops on which so many millions depend for food. Rice is not only the principal support of the peasantry in Bengal, but the stalk forms also the chief food of the cattle. What the annual hop crop is to Kent, what the potato crop is to Ireland, what the vine crop is to the sunny land of France, that an even much more is the rice crop to the peasantry of India.

From authentic reports, it may be stated that 24 millions of the Bengal peasantry may again be affected by a similar calamity; and if, as stated in the reports on the Orissa famine of 1866, out of a population of 7,50,000,000, about 1,400,000 people died of starvation, there is no possible reason to believe, unless every precaution be taken again by the Government, that the average of deaths will be less. The question is of grave import whether measures should not be taken to avert the decimation of two millions of the human race, whenever famine threatens as it does once in ten years, and if possible as regard the future to put a stop to any repetition of the past famine.

In order to effect this, two measures which are both feasible, should be carried out. The one as proposed by Sir Arthur Cotton, is to extend irrigation works in Bengal, and to commence the Soane canal ; the other as suggested by Dr. G. Clive, is to carry out Mr. Sankey's project of a direct overland approach to India by means of a through line.

17 April 1875

BENGAL RYOT (Editorial)

It has long been evident that if anything is to be done to benefit the Bengal ryot, the voluntary co-operation of the zemindar must not be reckoned upon,and it is painful to think how different would have been the condition of the Bengal

peasantry at this day if at the time of the Permanent Settlement there had been less carelessness in securing to the ryot his fair share of benefits which he was evidently intended to participate in. Notwithstanding all the experience of the past, the same spirit of carelessness is still rampant, defeating the best intentions, and often holding up the authorities to not altogether undeserved ridicule. A circular order from the Board of Revenue says : "Some years ago Government granted a zemindar of certain estate an abatement of revenue, upon condition that the ryots should participate in the benefit of the abatement. The royts not having received the benefit refused payment of their rents ; whereupon the putneedar, whose existence was not known to the Government at the time the remission was granted, instituted suits and obtained decrees for the full amount of arrears due."

"In point of fact, Government abandoned a certain amount of its revenue with the object of benefiting the ryots ;but the arrangement having been entered into with a person who had no authority to fulfil the conditions, the stipulation made in favour of the ryots has remained inoperative, the only effect of the concession made by Government being to increase the profits of the putneedar."

"Under the circumstances disclosed in this case the Member in charge, as desired by Government, requests that local officers will make themselves fully acquainted with the facts in respect to the intervention of parties having rights and interests between the zemindars and the cultivators before recommending any such remissions in future."

Thus as stated by the Board, what was intended to benefit the ryots simply went to increase the profits of a putneedar. But why should this be ? We feel inclined to ask. Are the powers of Government so limited that it must tamely submit to be hoaxed and cheated in this way ?

19 April 1875

BENGAL ZEMINDARS (Editorial)

There has lately been a certain amount of agitation among the Bengal Zemindars for the purpose of obtaining summary powers for the realization of rent. It is alleged on their behalf that the present system is dilatory and uncertain, and that under it the landlords cannot get in their just dues with punctuality. This, it is urged with force, is unfair towards men who have themselves to pay their Government revenue with exactitude, under the penalty of the sale of their estates by auction ; and more particularly so, it is said, now that the ryots of some parts of Bengal have formed combinations for the purpose of withholding rents and generally defying all authority. The remedy first proposed for this alleged grievance was that landlords should be permitted, of their own authority, to pass and enforce decrees for rent, as Collectors do on Government estates. This suggestion was thrown out in the Bengal Council by a native member, who urged that if Collectors, with all the prestige ,of Government at their back, needed such powers as they at present possess, the Zemindars, as private individuals, must require them much more. We made some remarks on this proposition, in reply to which it was explained that what the speaker meant was that the Zemindar and Collector should realize the rent of the former without the intervention of any third party, that is, without giving the ryot an opportunity of being heard in his defence.

...The allegation that ryots, as a body, do not pay their rents with regularity is not true. The vast majority pay as soon as they are asked to do so, and even give much more than is due from them in the shape of the well-known illegal cesses. Where combinations exist they are for the purpose of resisting attempts to enhance rents by illegal means. And it generally happens that even in such cases the rent, or so much of it as is undisputed, is deposited in Court for the benefit of the landlord.

It will be said that there is no smoke without a fire, and that the Zemindars would not be so eager to obtain a law of

the kind indicated if that at present in force worked as smoothly as we say it does. And this leads to the explanations of the real meaning of the present agitation. The landlords certainly have a strong and intelligent desire to obtain the power of realizing from their tenants such sum as they claim, without giving to the weaker party the common justice of a hearing. But the object which they seek to obtain by such means is not the legitimate one they put forward, the punctual payment of their acknowledged dues. What they seek is the means of effecting an enhancement of rent against those ryots who by the terms of their tenures are exempt from summary enhancements. They have hitherto been able by force or by fraud to get from ryots that to which they had no legal or equitable claim. Every year it gets more difficult to deceive and to coerce the lower ranks of society and now the landlords find a certain difficulty in following up their old course. It is not that illegal cesses authorised by custom are withheld; but the imposition of new imposts of the same kind is resisted. The ryots will not suffer the old form of blackmail to be incorporated with the rents, and they show in many ways they are prepared tomake a stand for their rights. They will not let the system of competition and the pressure of population on the soil produce the results which they would do if there were no laws for the protection of cultivators. And it is in order to suppress this spirit that the Zemindars ask for new and unheard of laws. They want a summary procedure, just as a robber wants a sword, not to get what is his due, but to take from others their legal rights. The British Government has given to the Zemindars many great and valuable privileges. Their position is altogether derived from our Perpetual Settlement, which turned them from tax-collectors into landlords. But while conferring costly benefits on the upper classes, English statesmen have never ignored the hereditary rights of the masses of the people.

21 April 1875

LANDLORD & TENANT (Editorial)

The ante-room of Mr. Disraeli is not exactly the chamber which an Anglo-Indian would select for the study of the principles which should regulate the relations between landlord and tenant in Bengal, and it is with some diffidence that we invite the attention of those who take an interest in the subject to a discussion which took place there on the second of March. A deputation of the Farmer's Club was introduced by Sir J. St. Aubyn to state their view upon tenant right to the Prime Minister. Their spokesman Mr. Woward, explained that what the farmers want is compensation for any improvements made by them to the land, and taken out of their hands by the landlord when the period of their tenancy may expire. He grounded his claim on the principle of natural equity. The farmer, he said, invests his capital in his holding ; part of it in moveable property, as livestock and agricultural implements ; part of it in things he cannot take away with him, as hedges, drains and other improvements. When he leaves, the landlord never asks him for those things which he can lead or carry away, but may, if it pleases, take all that is permanently attached to the soil without paying for it. And yet each form of property equally belongs to the tenant, because each has been paid for out of his purse. The justice of this maxim is so obvious that most landlords voluntarily pay compensation, though not bound by law to do so. What farmers desire is that a moral should be changed into a legal obligation for the security of this form of property.

... Mr. Disraeli's reply was most satisfactory. He expressed regret that the measure proposed by the farmers had not passed into law when first broached by Mr. Pusey in 1848. He said that he called the principle set forth, not tenant right, but a fair and complete security for the capital invested in the soil by the farmer. Her Majesty's Ministers were, he added, at the moment preparing to legislate on the subject and no effort on their part would be wanting to secure its success.

We think our readers will agree with us that not a word

was spoken on this occasion that has not an important bearing on the land question in Bengal. By the last Act of the Legislature upon the subject the principle of compensation for unexhausted improvements was conceded in the North-West Provinces, though with such absurd rules of practise as to make the concession valuable only in a controversial sense. And we suppose that some measure of the kind must before long be introduced in these Provinces. At present certain classes of tenants have privileges which exempt them from ejection, but those who have not these valuable rights are without any protection whatever in the matter of improvements. This is more unjust here than it is in England, for there the landlord ordinarily pays at least a portion of the cost of improvements, whereas, as we all know, the Zemindars here are mere rent-chargers, bearing none of the burdens of cultivation.

23 April 1875

SOUTH SUBURBAN SCHOOL

Calcutta

A Correspondent complains that the South Suburban School was removed from Shahnuggur, first to Kalighat and subsequently to Bhawanipore, to the great inconvenience of the pupils, and hopes that the Inspector of Schools will have the institution removed to a site more convenient for the scholars of Tallygunge and Chitlah.

29 April 1875

BETHUNE SOCIETY

Session 1874–1875

The third monthly meeting of the present session was held at the theatre of the Medical College on Thursday, the 11th March, 1875.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Phear in the chair.

...The Secretary announced the receipt of the following presentations :—

From the Government of Bengal.

Report on the Administration of the Registration Department in Bengal for 1873-74.

Records of the Geological Survey of India Vol. VII. Parts 3 and 4.

...There being no other business demanding the attention of members, the President invited Mr. Forsyth, Barrister-at-law to deliver his intended lecture on "The English Constitution."

...The Lecturer shewed that the English Constitution was not like that of many nation a written one, and that its leading features had come more by accident than deliberate design. Its outward form had changed very little and the most famous constitutional statutes were rather declaratory of odd customs than innovating.

At the conclusion of the lecture Baboo Gopal Chaunder Banerjea proposed that a hearty vote of thanks be offered to the lecturer for his able and lucid exposition of the English Constitution.

Koylas Chunder Bose,
Hony. Secy., Bethune Society.

29 April 1875

USURY (Editorial)

It need hardly be pointed out that the country generally – not individuals alone – is injuriously affected by the recognition of usury. People who find that they can, with the assistance of our Courts, realise cent per cent by money-lending transactions, will not be inclined to embark their capital in legitimate mercantile enterprise which yields smaller profit ; but if they found their lucrative business seriously hampered by the interference of Government, they would submit to stern

necessity, and the capital now made use of by them to ruin their neighbours, would be utilised in developing the resources of India and promoting the general interests of trade. Thus, mercantile enterprise is now starved for want of the capital which is employed in pauperising the masses. The more money a usurer has the greater enemy is he to society, for he thrives by the ruin of others ; and the more he lends the greater the number of his victims. Now, it can be no advantage to Government to make India a land of money-lenders and paupers, and yet the encouragement of usury is bringing us to this. If Government will boldly step in to suppress usury, so far as is legally possible, the capital which is now a deadly poison in the hands of money-lenders will flow into ordinary trade channels. Impecunious borrowers and usurious lenders will always exist, but the numbers of the latter will be vastly diminished if the stigma of crime and disgrace be attached to their vocation, and if they are deprived of the aid of our Courts in enforcing ruinous demands. Under existing circumstances, if there is any disgrace in usury, the Indian Government participates in it by its public recognition of it, and if Government does not blush for its share in such transactions, we cannot expect humble money-lenders to blush for sinning in such good company.

30 April 1875

CALCUTTA

The next meeting of the Graduates Association will be held on Saturday, 1st May 1875 at 8 p.m. at the old Presidency College Theatre when Baboo Kali Churn Banerjea, M. A. of the Free Church Institution, will deliver a lecture on "The Graduates and their Critics."

The 2nd Ordinary Meeting of the Family Literary Club is to be held at the house of the late Baboo Ram Mohun Mullick today, at 8½ p.m. when a lecture will be delivered by Baboo

Woomesh Chunder Sen Gupta, "on the cultivation of vegetables constantly required for our domestic consumption." The Bishop of Calcutta will be present on the occasion.

The following letter has been sent to Rajah Harendra Krishna Bahadur, by Mr. J. Sutcliff, the Principal of the Presidency College, on his presenting a portrait of his father the late venerable Rajah Kali Krishna Bahadur, for the purpose of putting it up in a suitable part of the college building.

My dear Rajah,—I have much pleasure in accepting the admirable picture of your late father on behalf of the college and I will place it in a suitable position in the library. The active share which the late Rajah took in every work calculated to raise the intellectual character of Bengal is well-known and our library could not be adorned with a more fitting portrait.

Yours Sincerely,
J. Sutcliff

THE TIMES ON THE TEA TRADE

What article of commerce is so thoroughly identified with the progress of civilisation as the Tea? This commodity which a couple of centuries ago was a delicacy which even the wealthiest houses could not generally command, made its way gradually into public estimation. It was favoured by fashion, and a great deal of the philosophy of the 18th Century was talked over the costly China in which it was administered. The historian of intellectual development will have not a little to say in favour of the fragrant herb that did so much to abolish Squires Western and their habits of coarse living; and the student of political history cannot forget that the British Empire in India was established upon the broad basis of the China trade. But for the hold that Tea took upon the public taste in England after the Restoration, the East India Company, would in all probability, have failed to consolidate itself, and

would have been elbowed out of the East, with its commercial realities and its political future, by the Dutch, the Portuguese, and the French. France never took kindly to Tea though before the herb was known to English society Cardinal Mazarin and other eminent Frenchmen had become distinguished as Tea-drinkers. It was in the early part of the following century that Tea became well-known as an English refreshment; Queen Anne's name with which the drink is linked by Pope in a celebrated couplet, marks the point at which it reached the height of fashion. But long before this it had been noticed by some far-seeing eye as a fruitful source of taxation. At first an attempt was made to tax the beverage produced by infusing the leaf, but the inconvenience of his method was soon discovered, and a charge of five shillings per pound was imposed, with an ad valorem duty of 5 per cent, in addition. For a whole century and a half the high duty was maintained, with some trifling changes until the expiration of the East India Company's Charter, in 1833, put an end to the monopoly of the China trade. Since that date the consumption of Tea has increased enormously in these kingdoms, and the duty has been gradually lowered, till it has reached its present level of six pence a pound. The development of the trade in recent years has been enormous. In 1860 the quantity of Tea consumed in the United Kingdom per head of the population was 2.67 lb; in 1873 it was 4.11 lb. In round numbers, as a correspondent reminded us on Thursday, the annual consumption of Tea in England, Ireland and Scotland amounts to 150,000,000 lb., and the duty brings in a yearly revenue of between three and four millions sterling.

THE SOCIAL EVIL (Correspondence)

To the Editor of the Indian Statesman.

Sir,—I wish to say a few words with reference to the case of attempted murder which took place in Joratallao Street the

other evening. The respectable portion of the residents of that street have, in a body, repeatedly petitioned the police authorities for the removal of the German women who reside there in force, and who have really become the curse of the locality. It has been pointed out that they are a cause of a great many disturbances, and behave in a most shameless manner, utterly regardless of all decency and propriety. It has also been pointed out that during Mr. Wauchope's incumbency as Commissioner of Police, they were prohibited from perambulating the streets and ordered to put up thick curtains at their windows. But I deeply regret to say that no heed whatever has been paid to our applications. It would appear the authorities are powerless to control the evil in any way. Our failure has had the disastrous effect of emboldening those abandoned creatures, who now believe that they are under the protection of the police and can do almost anything with impunity. Truly, Mr. Editor we live under strange laws. On the one hand, Government tolerate usury, which has ruined a many a poor family ; and on the other they encourage vice in its most hideous and revolting form. I sincerely trust that the recent attempt at murder will afford the police authorities an opportunity of breaking up the German gang and dispersing it in different directions. The evil of which we complain would thus be divested of its formidable proportions and reduced to a minimum. Some such measure is really needed in the interests of public peace as well as of public morality.

Yours etc.
A Resident.

1 May 1875

CHILD MARRIAGES (Editorial)

The Indian Daily News, alluding to the surplus population of India, deplores the evil of child marriages, and thinks there is no hope for the masses unless they avoid pauperism by prudent restraint from early marriages. To us it appears that

early marriages are in some measure due to the pauperised condition of the great agricultural class. It is admitted that the share of the produce of their land which falls to the cultivating ryots of Bengal is barely sufficient to keep them alive, and it is therefore a great object with the cultivators to avoid the cost of hired labour by making use of the services of their children, young and old, which cost them nothing but the daily dole of coarse food which barely serves to sustain nature. The more children a cultivator has, the less he is obliged to pay for hired labour, and he is therefore directly interested in the multiplication of his olive branches. If things were different in Bengal and ryots were allowed to participate in the benefits which landlords derive from the increasing value of land and produce, the agricultural class would specially emerge from its state of apathetic pauperism, and ryots, having the means of paying for hired labour, would probably be less anxious to secure cheap labour by early marriages, etc. At any rate they are not likely to abstain from early marriages so long as it is directly to their interest to marry early and have large families. We feel quite sure that if the cultivators were to become prosperous, they would also learn to be prudent, and it would certainly a be advantegeous to the State if, instead of being offered a premium for adding to an already excessive population, the cultivators could afford to employ the labour of hirelings who, under existing circumstances, are compelled to beg or steal in order to avoid starvation. The present prosperity of the agriculturists of France, a result of their emancipation at the time of the Great Revolution, is acting as a potent check on the increase of the rural population. In the case of a rich country like France, this may amount to an evil, but if an improvement in the condition of agricultural Bengal could have a like result, India would have little reason to complain.

4 May 1875

OLD CALCUTTA (Editorial)

It is not given to all of us to look back a hundred years, and the reminiscences of centenarians are often misty and incoherent, but fortunately we have in a pamphlet entitled "Calcutta a hundred years ago," of which Mr. Walter Rodway is the author, a brilliant exception to the general rule. The author has reproduced in pamphlet form, for private circulation, the substance of a lecture delivered by him on the 3rd April last at the Mahesh Literary Institute. The sketch is a very lively one, sparkles with anecdote, and presents a quaint and not too flattering picture of the social and political condition of our metropolis at the period in question. In spite of our instinctive hankerings after the good old days to which distance ever lends enchantment, we cannot but confess that, on the whole, we prefer the men, the manners, and the institutions of the present day; for although the famous Pagoda tree was well laden with fruit a hundred years ago, the successful shaking of the tree and gathering of the fruit entailed an amount of demoralisation which almost reconciles us to our present state of honest pauperism.

6 May 1875

INDIAN TEA (Editorial)

From the statistics extracted from Messrs. J. Thomas & Co. annual tea statement, published in another column, it appears that the total outturn of Indian teas for the year 1874 was 23, 298,025 lbs. and that the estimated crop for the current season is 27,456,720 lbs, which shows that a considerable increase upon last year's crop is anticipated. Indian teas may now be said to be steadily advancing in favour with consumers. But the chief value of the produce is still to be found in its utilization for mixing purposes, however unfair this may be to the Indian planters. It is probable that efforts in the right

direction would have the effect of creating a taste for our teas if supplied in a pure state at home ; and would conduce greatly to the advantage of growers here.

7 May 1875

FEEDING BUGS

Two natives were the other day found quarrelling in the street near the cross-street in Burra Bazar. On the police enquiring into the cause of the row, one of them said that he had been feeding bugs for a Babu (a Marwaree merchant) who had given his servant (who was the other native) two annas to pay him and the man wished to deduct half an anna from the sum. As the police officer could not understand what was meant by "feeding bugs", the man explained that though the Marwaries were very much disturbed by bugs, still they would not destroy them, as they considered it was sinful to take the life of any insect. They paid him to sleep on their bedding daily for a couple of hours before nightfall to give the bugs a feed, so that they would not disturb them at night. The Baboos were so very particular, that they would not allow him to kill a single bug and took care to strip him of his clothes before he went into the room to feed them. "I have been tortured for two hours," said the man, "and the Baboo's servant wants me to share with him my remuneration."

10 May 1875

COAL GAS (Correspondence)

To the Editor of the Indian Statesman.

Sir, A lecture on coal gas as an illuminating agent was delivered in the Bethune Society on Thursday last, by Baboo Tara Proshono Roy. This is the first time I heard a Bengali gentleman delivering a lecture on a chemcial subject in a public

hall. However, the first appearance seems to me not unworthy of the character or the stage. The learned lecturer started with the formation and crystalization of the coal, in mines under the influence of different physical forces, and ended his lecture with the gas lights of the Calcutta streets.

G.

11 May 1875

PARADISE OF SWELLS (Editorial)

We hear of many earthly Paradises. Thus Paris is said to be the Paradise of Women, and England the Paradise of Horses. The Paradise of Fools is of a more general kind. Let us hope that, as they say in lists of Directors, there is "power to add to their number" for earthly Paradises are institutions not to be despised. The latest discovery is the "Paradise of Swells," and is made by our rehabilitated and admirably developed contemporary, the Friend of India. The title of the article by the way, would have shocked some of the former conductors of that journal ; but we are not so austere as we were in our choice of language – for one reason that we are obliged to adopt new terms for new things and find the English of yesterday not always adequate to describe the ideas of today. Thus we should have to go in a very round-about manner to describe a Swell – call him a Swell, and everybody knows what is meant. But where is "The Paradise of Swells?" A few years ago nobody would have guessed India ; but it is India that is now so described, and the description is not unjustified. India, we are told, has superseded the colonies as a place of refuge where men may drown their private wretchedness in new forms of life and new objects of action. This at least is as far as the patrician class is concerned. The heroes of Ouida and Lawrence, we are reminded by the article in question, usually come to India to console themselves for lost loves or lost bets by sabreing Seikhs in the presumable spirit of a broken-hearted butcher.

But we are not sure the writer is correct in supposing that this class of heroes ever resorted to the antipodes, except when they had done something very wrong indeed, and wished to conceal their identity, as in a recent instance to which we need not further allude. India was always full of adventurers.

13 May 1875

PAWNBROKER'S ACT (Editorial)

We are glad to learn that the Trades Association contemplate moving Government on the subject of a Pawnbroker's Act for India. Failing a Government pawn-broking scheme, which we advocated very recently in discussing the question of usury, some check on the rapacity of private pawn-brokers is urgently needed. The Trades Association are probably about to agitate the matter in their own interests and for their protection, but the far wider question of the public good should ensure to their action the support of every philanthropist in India. The pawn-broker has not the excuse of the ordinary money-lender – that as he lends on doubtful personal security he has a right to exact whatever interest he likes to cover the risks of his pursuit. The pawn-broker only lends on good convertible security, which he holds in his own hands; and if it is considered necessary in civilized England to limit to by law the amount of his gains, and to secure to the borrower, under certain conditions, the return of the security deposited, how much more is some legislative enactment needed in a country where the masses are so helpless and so ignorant as to fall an easy prey into the hands of rapacious and unprincipled dealers in money.

It is well-known that in the Mofussil poor people who, in their need, must report to the local bunnia etc. have on the deposit of ample security in the shape of jewels trinkets etc.; the object of the lender generally being to secure, by

means of the excessive interest charged, the absolute possession of the articles on which he has advanced perhaps a quarter of their real value in money,

...Before Pawn-broking and other Acts, aimed at the practise of usury, came into force in Europe, the aforesaid wholesome check, now wanting in India, was in full operation. The Jews and Lombards of those days were as grasping as our native money-lending friends, but they did not always care to urge to desperation customers who might at any time turn up in the ranks of marauding bands or armies. They preferred not having to settle accounts summarily with debtors clad in mail or bearing bows and bills. And when they did make fortunes out of their clients, they were too often subjected to a retributive process of depletion, as exemplified in the melancholy case of Issac of York. But all this is wanting here. We have no wholesome checks whether legal or otherwise. The law supports the money-lender, the troops and police secure to him impunity, and so he works his own sweet will in the congenial occupation of draining the life-blood of his victims for his own sustenance – a resuscitated vampire.

14 May 1875

CREDITOR'S PRIVILEGE (Editorial)

The Hindu Patriot in replying to an article of ours on the proposal made by the Hon'ble Kristodas Pal in Council, that zemindars should be empowered to enforce claims for rent without giving the ryot an opportunity of being heard in his defence, repeats the Baboo's argument in support of his suggestion. If he urged, Government with all its prestige, requires this power the zemindars require it much more. That we freely and completely admit. Private creditors are always in greater need of money than the State, which has unlimited credit; and they have much fewer facilities for

using the means supplied by the ordinary law. Government has in every district an agent accustomed to litigation, and a staff of professional lawyers. They can realise its demands through the Courts better than can the servants of any zemindar or trader; and if they suffer by the law's proverbial dalay, Government can afford to wait. Why, then, is it that in every civilised country Government arrogates for the realization of its dues, powers which it denies to its subjects? We must understand that the question is not limitted to the landrevenue, or to India, but extends to every form of taxation or public demand, and over the whole world. It is not only the zemindar who must pay his taxes with punctuality, but the merchant, the consumer, and every citizen; not does this rule prevail only in India, but in England also and in every nation. And similarly the rule, which to the Hindu Patriot seems so unjust, that private creditors must resort to the Courts for redress when debtors neglect to pay, prevails over the whole civilized world. One of the first signs of decay of barbarism is the withdrawal of the creditor's privilege of imprisoning his debtor and selling his goods, otherwise than through the established Courts.

18 May 1875

SOCIAL EVILS (Correspondence)

To the Editor of the Indian Statesman.

Sir, – The other day I overheard a learned Moulvie ask a gentleman how the Government could tolerate such vices as drunkenness and open prostitution in its dominions. The answer was that it was the work of the missionaries to look after the morals of the people, that every one had a conscience, and ought to be able to distinguish between right and wrong; but the Government does not make it a part of its duty to interfere with the liberty of the subject; those only that break the laws of the land are punished. In my opinion

a great dreal of responsibility rests on our rulers to check these growing evils. Look, for instance, at the numerous public houses for the sale of intoxicating liquors. Is the loss of money in Government so very great that the welfare of the subject becomes secondary ; cannot it see the fearful effects of the evils arising from this sin of intemperance, how thousands are filling the jails, alms houses and lunatic asylums, and are at the end brought to an untimely end ? I am no advocate for the temperance movement nor are God's gifts to be abused ; yet I would that fewer licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquors were granted, and those at a higher rate, so as to put it beyond the reach of the poor to fall into this dreadful vice. The natives of the land, in whom Goverment is taking so much interest by the cultivation of their intellects are fast falling into the vices which destroy both soul and body.

Yours etc.,
Valen'ine.

20 May 1875

NATIVE DISCONTENT (Editorial)

The open and undisguised agitation against British rule in Western India, for which the recent proceedings in Baroda supplied a more or less plausible pretext, must have greatly added to the sum of native discontent in the Bombay Presidency ; and unfortunately the impunity with which seditious politicians have been able to air their pet grievances, has to some extent removed the wholesome check on the manifestation of discontent which fear of British power and prestige formerly supplied. Disturbances are still going on in Baroda, and we hear of troops being marched hither and thither to suppress them.

...Although in all ages and countries a few bold spirits could always be reckoned upon to originate and lead insurrectionary movements, the great mass of the people, through

whom success alone can be ensured, are, unless driven to desperation by intolerable wrongs, generally timid at the outset, and little inclined to risk their lives and property for an idea; but if the people once see weakness and irresolution in their rulers, they grow bolder, and are prepared to follow any lead that promises well for the attainment of their wishes.

...But apart from the open agitation and disaffection in some parts of Western India, we think there is too much reason to fear that a mere secret, but none the less dangerous, agitation is going on elsewhere. There have been rumours in the air for some time, but the mere fact of there being nothing tangible to grasp at does not necessarily prove all these rumors groundless. The story of the speculative Punjabees selling goods on credit in Oudh and the N.W.P. is probably a fable, but the bazaars of India have been disquieted by various stories – more or less ridiculous – for months and years past. The Russians are said to be at the gates of India, and their actual distance from our territories is an unknown quantity to the native gossips. But granting that every rumour that has been circulated in the native bazaars for months is as false or exaggerated as the one relating to Russia there remains the fact that some designing persons are busily originating and circulating these stories for the purpose of undermining British power and prestige. This is more important than all else, and efforts should certainly be made to trace the mischief to its source.

20 May 1875

EDUCATION OF POOR CHILDREN (Editorial)

A note by Mr. N A. Chick, in reply to the Education Circular No. 20, dated 24th November 1874, professes to give an accurate account of the number of poorer Europeans and Eurasians in the town and suburbs of Calcutta, together with a statement of the provision made for the education of their children.

Including all whose incomes are Rs. 300 per mensem and under, the number of Europeans is 971. The number of Eurasians is 3,616, making a total of 4,587.

The number of European children in school is	...	421
Not in school	...	254
Too young for school	...	283
The number of Eurasian children in school is	...	2,128
Not in school	...	1,021
Too young for school	...	1,220

This gives a total of 2,549 children in school, and 1,275 not in school. The question, then that has chiefly to be considered is, why is it that these 1,275 children who ought to be in school are not there? Is it because there is not sufficient school accomodation for them or is it because the parents are negligent or too poor to send them? The total number of schools in the towns and suburbs of Calcutta for European and Eurasian children is 43, and the number of children attending these schools, as furnished by the heads of schools themselves, is 4,346. The difference between this number and the 2,549 given above as the total of the Calcutta children in school under 16 years of age, is to be accounted for by the fact that in many of these schools are boys and girls over 16 years of age and that many of them are boarders from outstations, or belonging to classes that cannot be reckoned as Europeans or Eurasians, such as Jews, Mahomedans and Hindoos. Even taking 4,346 as the number of the European and Eurasian children in the 43 schools of Calcutta this gives only an average of about 100 children to each school. It would not be difficult, then, we should think, to divide the 1,275 children amongst the existing schools of Calcutta, without in any way over-crowding them. It would be interesting to put the question to the 43 schools, as to the numbers each could still find room for.

If this question were to be answered, we cannot but think that the result would show that there is already abundant provision in Calcutta for the education of these 1,275 child-

ren. All that is wanted probably is that the parents be put in the way of sending the children, by the provision of school fees and suitable clothing. The great majority of these neglected children belong to the poorest of the poor, and as the number is not very great, we think that by an active application of the parochial or other system, their wants might be easily provided for.

21 May 1875

RIGHTS OF THE RYOTS (Editorial)

···The Hindoo Patriot takes its stand on Regulation VIII of 1793, which prescribes the manner in which settlements are to be made by zemindars. It deals very summarily with the claims of certain holders of interests intermediate between those of the cultivator and the zemindar, and from this, the Hindoo Patriot says, we can see how little the rights of occupancy, or even of property other than that of actual proprietors, were respected at the time of Permanent Settlement. The clauses quoted are certainly very strong, and the policy indicated by them appears to have been unjust. But they in no way touch the rights of the ryots, and therefore do not concern us. They throw no light on the question—what was the position of the cultivators in 1793 ? They are a precedent in favour of confiscation of supposed interest of the public, and may therefore be referred to by those who wish to pursue such a course now, either by confiscating the rights of the ryots or by declaring the Permanent Settlement void. Considered in any other light, they are irrelevant.

26 May 1875

THE INDIAN STATESMAN CO. "LIMITED" CALCUTTA

(PROSPECTUS)

The Directors have the pleasure to announce that the Indian Statesmen has, in the short period of three and a half months, at the most unfavourable season of the year, and in the teeth of unlooked-for difficulties, achieved a large and steadily increasing circulation. The accounts to the 30th April last show that the company is already working at a profit, and that with arrangements for securing a larger literary staff and early telegraphic intelligence, the journal will take a high position, and return handsome dividends. With a view to these improvements, the Directors have been for some time in treaty with Mr. Knight for the acquisition by the Company of the ***Friend of India*** and ***Indian Observer*** and that gentleman is willing, from the large interest he himself has in the Indian Statesman, to transfer both papers to the Company at the price paid for them, and to take payment of one-half the amount in shares.

The offer has received the anxious consideration of the Directors, and they believe the terms to be so favourable, and the advantages likely to accrue to the Company from such an arrangement to be so great, as to warrant their having accept it, subject of course to confirmation by the shareholders at a general meeting. In order to carry out the scheme, it will be necessary to raise the capital and the Directors accordingly propose that the number of shares be raised to 1,000 making the nominal capital of the Company, Rs. 1,00,000. They recommended, however, that 400 only of the additional shares should be issued at present to bring the paid-up capital to Rs. 70,000 – a sum that will be amply sufficient to cover the payment for the newly-acquired property, the outlay for the purchase of fresh machinery and stock, and for extending the business of the office in the way of job-printing etc. as well as to provide a working capital of Rs. 10,000. The Directors would then be in a position to make the Statesman a really first-class paper. Owing to the

very limited capital at their command, they have hitherto been compelled to move very slowly and to work less economically than they otherwise could.

In taking over the papers in question, the Company would acquire at once, a fresh body of 1,500 to 1,700 subscribers, and at the same time obtain hold on the advertising world both in India, and in England, which it would take the Company, a long time to secure in any other way. The large staff of contributors, more over to these well-known journals comprises many of the ablest writers in the country : and with the services of these gentlemen at the disposal of the Company, they could at once raise the Statesman to the highest rank amongst Indian Journals. It is proposed to add to the daily Indian Statesman a weekly budget, on the principle of the Pall Mall Gazette, the full title of the weekly paper being The Friend of India. Thus, while identifying the paper with its new proprietary and Statesman's Budget they would retain the old name of the Serampore Journal, familiar as a household word, and with which are associated so many interesting memories to old Indians.

A very general desire undoubtedly exists in Calcutta for a really able and independent journal and to amake the Indian Statesman such, is the aim of the Directors.

The rates of subscription would remain unchanged.

It is proposed that the new shares should be called up as follows :—Rs. 10 on application ; Rs. 10 on allotment ; first call of Rs. 20 on 1st July; second call of Rs. 20 on 1st August ; third call of Rs. 20 on 1st September; the balance to be called up as required, at one month's notice, and that they should be first offered to the shareholder pro rata.

Applications for shares to be made to Messrs. Nicholls and Company, Managing Agents, 8, Old Court House Street, Calcutta.

FORM OF APPLICATION

THE INDIAN STATESMAN COMPANY "LIMITED"

Calcutta, ...1875.

To

Messrs. Nicholls & Company,

8, Old Court House Street.

Dear Sirs,

Herewith I beg to forward the sum of Rs.....being a deposit of ten rupees per share on.....shares in the above Company, for which please register my name and send me a receipt for the amount.

Yours faithfully,

29 May 1875

BRITISH INDIAN POLICY (Editorial)

We dwelt a few days ago on the want of continuity in our British Indian policy, embodying as it does the idiosyncrasies of successive Governor-Generals, rather than the gradual development of certain fixed and unalterable "ideas". A Viceroy accepts indeed, from his predecessor a few general principles, of liberty, justice and humanity set forth in the Queen's Proclamation, but no one can possibly predict how he will apply them in specific cases, since respect for precedent, as such, is not even expected of him. One, for example, summarily deposes a vicious native prince after a private departmental enquiry; another tries him by his peers, and a third will perhaps leave him alone altogether. But without going again over the ground of our previous article we wish to point out how we conceive this want of steady persistence to be one of the most marked deficiencies in the English administration of this country.

29 May 1875

SUBORDINATE EXECUTIVE SERVICE IN BENGAL

(Editorial)

The two branches of the subordinate executive service in Bengal are to be amalgamated, and the regulation and non-regulation districts are, for the future, to be dealt with alike with respect of the subordinate executive service. The plan is unfolded as follows in a resolution dated 31st ultimo ; –

"Instead of 182 deputy magistrates and deputy collectors and 24 extra assistant commissioners, or 206 officers in all, as at present, there will in future be 201 deputy magistrates and deputy collectors. As vacancies occur, one appointment of Rs. 700 in the present 2nd grade and six appointments of Rs. 250 in the 7th grade of extra-assistant commissioners, as well as one appointment of Rs. 200 in the present 6th grade of deputy magistrates and deputy collectors will be absorbed ; and from the savings thus effected, the three new appointments of deputy magistrates and deputy collectors of the 1st grade will be created. The amalgamated list, when these changes are effected, will stand as shown below : –

	Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors		Extra-Assistant Commissioners		Total
1st grade on Rs. 800	3	plus	1	=	4
2nd grade on Rs. 700	10	plus	0	=	10
3rd ,, ,, Rs. 600	17	plus	1	=	18
4th grade on Rs. 500	27	,,	3	=	30
5th grade on Rs. 400	40	,,	5	=	45
6th grade on Rs. 300	45	,,	7	=	52
7th grade on Rs. 200	42	,,	0	=	42
	184	,,	17	=	201

The amalgamation of the two services will be carried out at once, with effect from 1st of June, 1875.

3 June 1875

EUROPEAN ADVENTURERS (Editorial)

It is doubtless desirable that European adventurers, commonly styled loafers, should fully realise the fact that the prospect before them, if they tempt fortune on Indian soil, is, as a rule, the not too cheerful one of starvation aggravated by climatic influences. Nevertheless, we think there must be something wrong somewhere when we find men, who are already located here and may have done the State good service in their time, compelled by the force of circumstances to cast off their creed and nationality in order to obtain the means of subsistence, otherwise denied to them. It must be admitted that there are certain Englishmen whose natural impulses, strengthened by the demoralising effects of "low" life in India, would lead them to prefer the material and sensual joys of Mahomed's paradise to the spotless purity of the Christian's Heaven ; and that such men should elect for a happy state of license here and here-after is not surprising ; but we fear that the majority of those who now enter the fold of the prophet in India are driven in it by the Giant, Despair.

...If history teaches us anything, it is that Asiatics fight well under European leaders of courage and energy ; and it was the want of such leadership that wrecked the fortunes of the mutineers in 1857. Whilst, therefore, half-a-dozen Europeans perverts to Mahomedanism only excite in us feelings of contempt and disgust, a few hundred such perverts may prove dangerous rather than ridiculous. The number is very small at present, but the thing is becoming "fashionable" with a certain class, and something ought to be done to put a stop to the scandal. Far be it from us to suppose that Government could so far interfere with religious freedom as to prevent Christians from becoming Mahomedans ; but as the most of the interesting converts change their faith in order to avoid the work-house and deportation, the fact itself suggests the remedy i. e. that Government should immediately deport all Europeans who become Mahomedans in India.

7 June 1875

HARINAVI SCHOOL (Correspondence)

To the Editor of the Indian Statesman

Sir, The above school was founded in the month of June 1866, by Pundit Dwarkanath Vidyabhusan, the well-known editor of the Som Prakash and the late Professor of Sanskrit Literature in the Calcutta Sanskrit College. Through the exertion of Babu Umes Chandra Datta B.A., this school began then to assume a prominent place within Harinavi and its adjacent villages. Before this school was founded, there was a school at Rajpore, a neighbouring village under the secretaryship of the late zemindar, Babu Golokenath Ghosh, and Babu Umes Chandra Datta was its second teacher. For many years Rajpore school was the only Government-Aided English School within the countries south of Guriah. After the first great cyclone of 1271 B. S., Vidyabhusan's Vernacular School at Changripoty was amalgamated to the Rajpore School. Unfortunately, some days after, a serious misunderstanding occured between the two secretaries, Pundit Dwarkanath and Babu Golokenath. The result of the contest was the foundation of a new school at Harinavi. After the establishment of the new school, the old school at Rajpore maintained its existence for a period of more than a year, after which the school vanished away, as death snatched away Babu Golokenath Ghosh from this world. Immediately after the abolition of the old school at the end of the year 1867, its rival school received a grant of Rs. 100 from Government, After this, the school gradually acquired sympathy of the inhabitants, and it promised to be a higher class school than those the country already possessed. All this time the expenses of the new school were met by Pundit Vidyabhusan only, no aid was received from the inhabitants. The amount of cost incurred by him was more than Rs. 200 a month. Through Vidyabhusan's bouty the country began to prosper a great deal. Year after year candidates passed in the University Entrance Examination. Most of them now holds respectable position in society.

After the resignation of Babu Umes Chandra from the Headmastership of this school in the month of October or November, 1869, the school began rapidly to decline as it advanced higher within a few years. The establishment of the school being reduced from Rs. 350 to something more than Rs. 280.

In 1873, Babu Sivanath Shastri, M. A. took charge of the school as Headmaster and Secretary. Previous to this Babu Rajendra Lal Ghosh M. A., B.L., Headmaster resigned his post. From this time the payment of the teachers became irregular. So within a month or two the teachers had the misfortune to have their some month's salaries non-realized. The teachers most of them were Vidyabhusan's neighbours and relatives, did not try to have their salaries realized after his resignation of the secretaryship. Knowing that Vidyabhusan Mahasaya is a great man they expected to get their salary soon. But alas ! they were sadly disappointed. Why will not the present Headmaster and Secretary, Babu Umes Chandra Datta, B. A., try to remove the difficulties of the teachers ? Will not Babu Sivanath Shastri come forward to do something for these poor teachers ? Let me know also what Vidyabhusan wishes to do in this difficult matter in the future ?

4th June 1875 Yours etc.
Harinavi A Villager.

10 June 1875

FRIEND OF INDIA AND THE STATESMAN (Notice)

As some misconception appears to exist as to the precise arrangement contemplated by the Proprietors of this journal and of the Friend of India in amalgamating the two properties it is desirable perhaps for them to explain that the two papers will continue to be as distinct and independent of each other in their editorial conduct, as they now are. The object of making the two papers common property of a single body of shareholders is to strengthen the Editorial arrangements of

each, while one printing and publishing staff produces both. The publishing expenses will thus be borne by one establishment only, instead of two. To speak yet more plainly, the literary staff of the Friend and Observer is found to be so strong and so willing, that the Editor finds himself under a real embarras de richesse ; to utilize will be the aim of the united proprietary.

10 June 1875

INDIAN REVENUES (Editorial)

Amongst the many suggestions which have from time to time been made with a view to the explanation of the Indian Revenues, we do not remember to have seen one in favour of State lotteries. Now, although we have no intention of advocating the introduction of State lotteries into India, we cannot but think that a Government which sees nothing immoral in an opium monopoly might reasonably make an equally honest penny by a system which has found favour in many continental States. There are certainly some weighty arguments to be advanced in behalf of so pleasant a mode of increasing the available source of revenue in case of need. It can hardly be denied that direct taxation, in the shape of an income tax, is peculiarly oppressive in India, and yet our financiers almost despair of raising the revenue on an emergency by any less direct method. If, however, the Government profit on State lotteries could be made sufficiently large to relieve taxation in other forms. the process would be proved agreeable to all concerned. The objections against gambling in general do not apply to State lotteries ; for the chance of success in each individual instance being so very small, there is in connection with such lotteries none of the intense excitement which induces the gambler to risk his all on a single throw and those who take chances or tickets can never reasonably depend upon winning anything, and consequently do not stake more than they can conveniently spare, and are not

heart-broken when they find that they do not draw a winning number. This argument applies to all lotteries, as a rule, but the reason why some Governments legislate against private lotteries is that they open the door to fraud and thus lead to much scandal and the victimising of a too confiding public. The objection in question would, of course, fall to the ground in the case of lotteries organised by the State. We do not believe, moreover that State lotteries would foster and develop the gambling spirit which is inherent in human kind; on the contrary, we think they would merely turn into useful channels what would otherwise take a less healthy direction of its own.

12 June 1875

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS (Editorial)

The returns of railway accidents in India during the year 1874, have just been published. As compared with 1873, the total of the past year exhibits an increase of 146 accidents – the number being 767 in 1874, against 621 in 1863. The increases occured chiefly on the East Indian, Oudh and Rohilkhund. Calcutta and South Eastern State, and Madras Railways. On the East Indian and Oudh and Rohilkhund Railways, the numbers have increased with increased train mileages, caused partly by the famine traffic, and partly by the opening of new lengths of line. On the Rajpootana State Railway the mean open mileage was 173 miles in 1874, against 91 miles in 1873, and the number of accidents increased from 14 to 43. This increase cannot be wholly accounted for by the addition of 82 miles to the length of the line opened, and does not testify very favourably to the superiority of the arrangements on State line.

The casualties in 1874 were 221 killed and 278 injured; or a total of 499 against 438 in the preceding year. This may not appear a very large number for the mileage open, but

it should be remembered that conditions of traffic on Indian lines are such that, if ordinary care were excercised as a rule, such accidents as collisions would be almost impossible. On the East Indian Railway alone thirty-six collisions took place, and in 21 instances the drivers were to blame, in 4 the guards, in 3 the station staff, in 4 the pointsmen, and in the remainder the general staff. All were therefore, preventable occurences, due to carelessness; and the fact that the drivers of engines were responsible for so large a proportion of the accidents is not particularly creditable to the class of men employed. Were the majority of them natives or Europeans? As regards natives, we are glad to observe that only 4 of the collissions were the work of pointsmen, and considering the host of native pointsmen employed on the East Indian Railway, and the responsible nature of their duties – insignificant as these may seem – it cannot at any rate, be said that the ill-paid pointsman is, as a rule, wanting in care, intelligence and attention to his duties generally. Nor is the work of a pointsman one which altogether fails to test the nerve and courage of the individual.

21 June 1875

PRINCE OF WALES (Editorial)

Happily for editors they are seldom left long without a piece deresistence with which to satisfy the voracious appetite of the modern public for news, and as a Prince is above all things agreeable to the popular palate, it is satisfactory to know that, having safely deposited the late Gaekwar of Baroda at Madras on his Rs. 10,000 a month, we may now begin to sharpen our pens for another and far more illustrious and worthy specimen of the same order. The Prince of Wales personally ought to find a visit to this country very pleasant, since, under ordinary circumstances, there is now-a-days as little inconvenience attending a journey from London to Calcutta as three hundred years ago from London

to Kenilworth ; and moreover it is not likely that bejewelled feudatories, gaily-trapped elephants, and seas of many coloured turbans, would prove a grateful variation from the stereotyped triumphal arch, and the addresses of loyal but long-winded Mayors. In a much wider sense, however, the event, if it comes off, will be worthy of the most special telegraphese of the day. For India is to receive, not only her future Emperor, but the first of any race possessing a complete and undisputed right to so exalted a title. In regions where the Mahratta was never anything more than an occasional robber, in regions where the Mahomedan Governor could never collect his taxes except at the point of the sword ; on both sides of the Indus, on both sides of the Bay of Bengal, from Ceylon in the south to the Terai in the north ; in Delhi, in Poona, in Seringapatam, in Lahore, in Rajkote, in Rangoon – the supremacy of the English Crown is as settled as that of Aurungzebe ever was within the walls of his own capital. The glory of bringing the whole continent 'under one umbrella' which was the vision of many an ambitious leader, from the kings of the Mahabharat down to the successors of Sivajee, has been attained by a white-faced dynasty from beyond the black-water, whose representative will now, by summoning for the first time chiefs and people to his presence, proclaim, as has never been done before, that the dream of a united India has at length been realised.

23 June 1875

THE NEW CHOWKEDARI LAW (Editorial)

The introduction of the new Chowkedari law is likely to create a great change in the village life of Bengal. The only part of the Act which has been much discussed is that which increases the power of the Magistracy at the expense of the Police. This, however, is a more trifle when compared with the alteration in the position of zemindar and ryot, which must be the direct consequence of its working. Hitherto all

public duties of an honorary nature have, in these provinces, been imposed on one class only – that of the landlords. The new Act creates a body of Government officers, who will by their number enjoy great power and influence. and they will be almost all ryots. There will henceforth be in every village a group of headmen having a public character. They will be exclusively responsible for the collection of an important tax – that which supports the chowkedars – and for the punctual reporting of all known crimes, and they will have two distinct and definite functions, in the discharge of which they will be supreme. In the first place it will be their duty to assess the tax, and to realize it if necessary by the attachment and sale of the defaulters' goods. In the second place they will have the control of the chowkedars, a body of men more numerous than the police and military forces of Bengal. This Act is now being put in force in almost every district. Magistrates are at present engaged in appointing the headmen and explaining to them their duties. Before the end of the year the measure will be everywhere in full working order.

No one can fail to see that this is a decisive step towards reviving that village life which was once the keystone of the Indian organisation. In Madras and the North-West we have retained and favoured the institution. In Bengal and Oudh, we trampled it under foot and endeavoured to rely for that part of the administration which must be left to the people themselves, on the owners of land and their agents. This latter system has proved a complete failure. The zemindars have never performed any of the duties imposed on them by the regulation. They have shrunk back from the position in which we placed them, and reserved the energy which we had hoped would be shown in performing their obligations, for evading the consequences attached by law to neglect. All reliance on the upper classes having proved vain, we have been forced to turn to the democratic element in native society.

26 June 1875

VICEREGAL PROCLAMATION (Editorial)

We have recently seen a Viceroy obliged, under pressure from home, to issue a proclamation utterly at variance with his own policy and declarations ; and it now appears that the Indian Government if not empowered to deal with a barbarian who scornfully rejects the terms of an ultimatum. Instructions from home have to be taken whenever a pending case assumes, in the slightest degree a new aspect. It might have been supposed that the Home Government, being cognizant of the embassy to Mandalay and its object and reasons, would have permitted the local authority to carry out the details rendered necessary by the failure of the diplomatic mission. But this was, it seems, too much to expect ; and not only must the Home Government dictate every move in the game, but a decision of any kind cannot be arrived at until Sir Douglas has had an opportunity of giving to a select and anxious Simla audience a viva voce description of the terrible aspect of the King of Ava and of the boundless warlike resources which were displayed for the edification of the Envoy. It rejoices us to learn that Sir Douglas did not actually have to wade shoeless through the mire on his way to the august presence of the Sovereign. A courtier apparently played the part of the gallant Raleigh, and capeted the mud for the feet of the representative of British Majesty ; but here the simile ends, for by no stretch of imagination can we suppose an Elizabeth adopting the role of a supplicant at the foot of the throne of Burmah. At no very remote period, an experienced telegraph signaller will be the best and cheapest agent for the efficient performance of the duties which now devolve upon an Indian Viceroy. A further measure of economy might with advantage be adopted in the selection from the ranks of street medicancy of persons duly qualified to represent British humility at the Courts of Asiatic Sovereigns. By such an arrangement the shoe difficulty would be overcome once and for ever ; as it is obvious the persons accustomed to trudge barefooted through

the mud would never dream of approaching an Asiatic potentate in any other way.

6 July 1875

THE POOR BANIAN (Correspondence)

To The Editor of the Indian Statesman

Sir, – When European merchants first came to Calcutta, they, like all strangers in a strange land, had been aliens to its trade. Hence it was necessary to have a body of native gentlemen of intelligence and position to assist them in the sale and purchase of their goods, and to take the risk of such sale, for which, the merchants allowed a commission. These gentlemen went by the name of Banians. In those days, owing to less competition in commerce, and the absence of railways and telegraphs, the merchants throve remarkably well, and the Banian prospered with them also. The good old days of mercantile prosperity in Calcutta have, however, I regret to observe passed away. In the place of a comparatively few houses there have sprung up in this city many, so that the business which had to be carried on by one has been divided. Under such circumstances it is not unlikely that the merchants' income must be decreased in the same proportion. The consequence would be, as I apprehend, the reduction by the merchant of his expenses. To do so, his first heavy item of expenditure appears to be the allowance to the Banian, the commission which I have above adverted to. Some of the firms here, especially the Greek houses, have actually dispensed with the services of the Banian, and can manage with the aid of a paid Banian. If therefore, the Banian cannot be entertained on the score of expense, the merchant, what, one would naturally inquire, would the native capitalist eventually do ? Most of the Banian Babus though possessing immense wealth, are nevertheless men of little or no experience in the Indo-European commerce. Inland trade, to which the Marwaree is brought up and of

which he has a monopoly is not his forte. Lending money on Government securities, or other good, sound, and safe securities, would very willingly be taken up prima facie as his principal business, but that would hardly keep him employed all his time. Idle the Baboo cannot be, for –

"Satan always finds some mischief for idle hands to do."

The old Banian might probably retire to some religious shrine, as must moneyed orthodox Bengalees do in ripe age, but what is to be the future work of young hopefuls of our native mercantile capitalists – I mean their children – in these days of less work and more men ? I leave the subject to the consideration of our mercantile political economists. – Yours etc.

4 July 1875

MERCATOR

Note – We would recommend the young hopefuls to buy land in Bengal and to combine the duties of landlords with those of bunniahs. Editor I. S.

7 July 1875

EAST INDIAN RAILWAY (Editorial)

Apropos of the wholesale discharge of European employees by the East Indian Railway Company, a correspondent, whose testimony is unimpeachable, writes to us as follows :

'Before this can appear in print at least fifty men belonging to the Locomotive Department will be either on their way to swell the ranks of the unemployed, or will be making their sad preparations. Nine-tenths of these will be perfectly destitute before this month is out : some with wives and children, to my certain knowledge, must be in this condition from the day they are driven from their railway homes: how then any man can bring himself to write as your correspondent signing him-

self "Native Guard" has done, passess understanding. Surely the time has come when every Englishman in the country should raise his voice in the cry of shame-shame on a policy of inhumanity.'

We cordially echo the cry of 'shame.'

...It must be further remembered that those who served the Company faithfully when natives were not to be had, and whose imparted experience has been the means of enabling the natives to supplant them, are entitled to some small measures of consideration.

...But the measures adopted by the East Indian Railway authorities are of such a nature that the onus and responsibility must rest on the shoulders of the Indian Government. The question is really a political one, and on this ground the Government which guarantees the Railway dividends is bound to interfere. It is not for the good of the Indian state that hundreds of working Englishmen and their families should be forced into the ranks of local pauperism. It is not to the advantage of British rule that every right-minded Englishman should point the finger of scorn at a Government which could stand by and allow such cruel injustice on the part of a guaranteed Railway Company. It is not for the good of the travelling public that their lives and limbs should be placed at the mercy of men who are notoriously unequal to special emergencies such as are frequent occurrence on Railways. We call upon Government to act promptly in this scandalous business.

8 July 1875

BENGALI AUTHORS (Editorial)

We publish today the names of the Bengali authors who have suffered more or less in consequence of the new school-course issued by Sir Richard Temple :—

Pundit Iswar Chunder Vidyasagar ;

Baboo Rajendra Lal Mitter ;
„ Bhoodeb Mookerjee ;
„ Kanye Lall Dev ;
„ Nilmony Baysak ;
„ Radhica P. Mookerjee ;
„ Krishna Chunder Roy ;
„ Tariny Churn Chatterjee ;
„ Jodoo Gopal Chatterjee ;
„ Raj Krishna Mookerjee ;
„ Raj Krishna Roy ;
„ Nilmony Mookerjee ;
„ Nursing Chunder Mookerjee ;
„ Ram Gutty Nyaratna.

We believe that most of these gentlemen were invited to Belvedere and Rhotas parties by Sir Richard himself, as being authors with whom His Honour felt it a pleasure to become acquainted and to associate ; and these authors on their part, we are sure, were much pleased with the honour that was done to them. Little did they, however, know at that time the significanee of these honorary invitations. It never entered their heads that so soon after so much joy there would be occasion for so much grieving. It will be a pleasure to Sir Richard to know that by a single stroke of his pen he has injured and probably thrown adrift so many of Bengal's talented sons.

12 July 1875

CLASS INTERESTS

The praise bestowed by the Lieutenant-Governor, at the recent Dacca durbar, on Nawab Abdul Gunny, and his son Khajeh Ahsunoola is well deserved, and we congratulate the Mahomedan community, on numbering in its rank such bright specimens of benevolent humanity. Class interests must be very powerful indeed when gentlemen who spend such immense sums for the good of their fellow-men are to be found con-

necting themselves with petitions to the Lieutenant-Governor for depriving ryots of the rights they enjoy under the law.

30 July 1875

GROWING RAJAHS

In recognition of her "distinguished services" during the recent famine, Sreemutty Sham Mohinee, of Dinagepore, has been promoted to the rank of "Maharanee", and her next heir and successor will be a "Maharajah". Half a century hence, if great changes do not take place in the interim, the population of India will consist of nothing but Native Kings and European vagrants.

4 August 1875

THEFT IN KALIGHAT TEMPLE (Editorial)

Robbing an Idol of its ornaments. – A most daring robbery was perpetrated last Monday night at Kaleeghat. The Temple of the goddess Kalee, which is held in the highest veneration by the Hindus, was broken open and an entrance effected from the east gate. The thief or thieves were so far considerate that they only carried away gold ornaments and umbrellas valued about three thousand rupees. There were the arms and tongue of the goddess and a crown of all solid gold valued at Rs. 10,000 which probably the thieves did not find it very convenient to remove. There is a police station just opposite the temple. The men in charge of the temple were taken into custody on suspicion by the Police as it was thought rather unlikely they could have slept so soundly as not to know anything about the robbery. It is said that the temple has been in existence for the last two centuries, and no attempt had ever been made to rob the idol of its jewels. The natives think that the perpetrators will not survive to be

arrested and punished as the sacrilege committed is looked upon by them with such horror.

4 August 1875

PRINCE OF WALES IN CALCUTTA (Editorial)

Many people doubtless anticipate a very gay season in Calcutta, as a natural consequence of the visit of the Prince of Wales. We trust those who reckon upon this may not be disappointed, but we cannot help thinking that the visit will mar rather than add to the general festivity of the season. Of course, the Christmas week will be brilliant beyond compare; but we fear local society will exhaust itself during the ten days we shall have the Prince in our midst. To begin with, everything will be postponed till the Prince comes, and the month of November and the greater part of December will be devoted to the great work of preparation Houses will be turned inside out by painters and decorators, whitewash will be in the ascendant, and milliners and dress-makers will have enough to do in replenishing a thousand wardrobes.

6 August 1875

RAJA SOURINDRO MOHUN TAGORE (Editorial)

Rajah Sourindro Mohun Tagore, the enlightened patron of Bengali music, the author of several works on the subject, and the President of the Bengal Music School, has received from the American University of Philadelphia the Degree of Doctor of Music. We trust that other Universities will follow the example of that Philadelphia, and do the honour to the merits of this distinguished citizen of Calcutta.

10 August 1875

VISIT OF THE PRINCE OF WALES (Editorial)

Those who recently spoke to public on the subject of the approaching visit to the Prince of Wales omitted to notice a circumstance which, in our opinion, adds not a little to the importance of the event. India will next winter be inspected, not by the Prince alone, but by the whole civilized world. The ablest writers and artists form a part of the Royal suite, and they will supply a full representation of all that they see. Their works will be translated or reproduced, until every reader in Europe or America has had an opportunity of forming a vivid impression of India. The opinions formed will not pass quickly away. They will endure until some other occasion brings India prominently before the outer world ; until we engage in a great war, or receive an Emperor. It is probable that for many years to come we shall be judged by the appearance which we may present to the eyes of our expected guests.... The people of India themselves offer to a stranger a spectacle more interesting than any of the natural features of the country. Sir George Campbell once had a kind of man-show got up for him in Assam, in which specimens of all the different races of that province were got together. A similar exhibition for all India would show us over what a motley population we rule. Every type of Asia has found its way into the peninsula and been here retained. Even the Princes and Chiefs brought together in durbar form a sufficiently incongruous group. The effeminate faces of refined Rajputs and Brahmins, the heirs of the great houses of antiquity, contrast with the marked features of the Maharattas, descendants of low-caste robbers. The Afghan stares at his fellow barbarian a Chinese Princes from the other extremity of the Himalayan range. Our army too, what a study does it present ! In every battalion there is the one constant element, the familiar white face, which we at once recognise as English however disguised by the turban. But the rest is all strange and incongruous. We have Sikhs, Hindustanis, Goorkhas, Beloochees, men of Jheend, Cashmere, Mooltan, Madras. Every province in the

Empire except Bengal is represented. and not a few frontier States send recruits to share our pay and fortune. The camp is a Babel of strange languages. The soldiers differ from each other in colour, size, shape, religion, race. They are however united for a common purpose by the only bond between them, the habit of discipline and of obedience to the English word of command.

14 August 1875

WELLESLEY SQUARE (Correspondence)

To the Editor of the Indian Statesman

Sir,—Allow me, through the medium of your columns, to call the attention of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, or any of the subordinate authorities of the Municipal Corporation, to the present wretched condition of Wellesley Square. It is very difficult for any one to take a morning or evening walk in this Square, owing to the disgraceful and impassable state of the footpath round the gole talao. The path is quite impassable, being covered irregularly with bricks and overgrown with grass and moss. Formerly I was a frequent visitor to this beautiful spot but since it ran into a wilderness all the people in the neighbourhood have been obliged to stop taking a pleasant morning or evening walk there. The footpath round the tank has not been repaired for a long time. This is not the case with other Squares, especially those situated in European quarters, such as Dalhousie Square and Serpentine Tank. Mr. Editor, you will be also astonished to learn the condition of the flowers and trees. There is no regular gardener to look after them. The trees are growing wild, as well as the flower plants. In one place a large heap of dry prickly shrub is piled up, and in another the rubbish of the old hut of the late mali is to be found. Before evening you will find all the budmashes of Colinga, Toltollah and Misreegunge gathering there, and some playing at kabaddi, some playing at aut, while others are enjoying themselves with chowa-mari and gabu-gaucha—games

generally played among the lower class of people with cowries and pice ; in fact, it is a rendezvous of the budmashes of this part of the town. Sometimes you will see people bathing at the ghats undressed, and thus causing annoyance and disgust to the passers-by. Now and then you find the guardians of the peace indulging themselves with either chowa-mari and gabu-gaucha. I sincerely trust that the proper authorities will look after the condition of this once beautiful place, and lose no time in putting stop to the gathering of these budmashes in Wellesley Square. Now that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is coming to this City of Palaces, such irregularities in public Squares should not be allowed, and their condition should speedily be improved.

Yours etc.

Toltollah, 26th August, 1875. N. H.

27 August 1875

THE NEW TARIFF ACT (Editorial)

The discouragement given to the industry of our Indian Mills by the new Tariff Act raises the question whether manufactures created by foreign capital and worked for the benefit of foreigners are beneficial to the country. Even if Europeans are not likely to differ on this subject, it is certain that among the natives themselves there are grave doubts. Since the Mutiny English money has been poured into the country like water, to be invested in the building of cotton and jute mills and of indigo factories in the making of tea gardens, of railways, of irrigation works in the purchase of land and of Government securities. The interest now payable yearly on account of these investments may be estimated at twelve million sterling. This amount has to be regularly sent to England, not indeed in money but in merchandise, which is in London sold for the money due to the capitalists. In this fact lies the true explanation of the excess of our exports over our imports and the home remittances of Government. A

drain such as is represented by twelve millions must be felt severely by the country. India pays no political tribute to England, but this industrial trial tribute is larger than any the world has ever known. The natives see it increase year by year with alarm. And this sentiment is by no meansunnatural, as other races when placed in a similar position have shown the same feeling.

...If English capital has caused occasional and partial evil in India, it must be on the other hand be credited with a great deal of good. The industrial want of the country is capital. At present the natives appear to have as little as can anywhere be found in a civilized community. They have wealth in houses, jewels, dresses, and all that is used for the luxury of the rich, but they have the minimum of what is called capital – that is wealth turned to a reproductive use. In every agricultural country there must be enough food to support the people from one harvest to another, and this our ryots possess, the period between the crops being however as short as possible.

10 September 1875

THE STATESMAN (Editorial)

In order to distinguish ourselves from the IndianStatesman Bombay, and because we do not confine ourselves exclusively to Indian political questions, we have changed our name to that of the Statesman, and shall be obliged if, in future, we are so styled by our numerous friends, and we trust, few enemies.

14 September 1875

PRINCE OF WALES'S VISIT (Editorial)

On the occasion of the Prince of Wales's visit we may expect to see revived the old institution of presents from native Princes to the representatives of English power. The custom has not been altogether disused, but has been very

much weakened. The company at a very early period established a rule that their followers, should be sold by auction for its benefit. This necessary practise has never been pleasing to the Native Princes. They naturally dislike to see their gifts carried off to the toshakhana, as the public store-room is called, and then transferred to traders for a price, without in any way benefitting those for whom they were intended, we find many traces of such a feeling in the graphic diary of Miss Eden, kept while she accompanied her brother, Lord Auckland, on his tour as Governor-General. The Dawagor of Gwalior, the Baiza Baee, suggested a means of getting rid of the troublesome practice. "She covered us with jewels," says Miss Eden, "chiefly pearls and emeralds, there were fifteen trays apiece for my sister and me, filled with beautiful shawls, gauzes, etc., you never saw such treasures. However, the astute old lady was fully aware that they all went to the Company, and after we came away was persuaded by Mr. B to retain them ; but she told us confidentially and iniquitously that the jewels had been specially prepared for us, and inferior articles of the same kind would be sent with the list that is always given to Mr. B., so that he would make no claim on these. We laughed, and assured her that was not the usual English custom, and she took them all back very willingly, except two little rings, which we kept in exchange for ours." Scindia sent Miss Eden an enamelled little spice box, with a message that it was a private present to her, and that if the company were to have it he would not give it at all. The resident wanted her to keep it in this way, but Lord Auckland insisted on paying its value to the Company. Indeed, the way in which the presents were whisked away from them, like the untasted dishes at Sancho Panza's state dinner, was a standing joke in the camp. "George presented sixteen thousand rupees," she writes, "and they (Runjeet's Sikhs) in return gave some very fine shawls. I think mine was scarlet and gold, but the Company's Babu twisted it up in such haste that I did not see it well."

20 October 1875

THE SUPPLY OF EDUCATED MEN (Editorial)

"The supply of educated men in all departments is excessive. In the Educational department the supply of masters for English schools has, for some years past, exceeded the demand, and their worth in the money market has accordingly declined. The educated man has become a drug in the market. In the Medical department, the supply exceeds the demand made by Government, though the requirements of the public for skilful medical practitioners are almost unlimited. In the domain of the law it is the same. In the engineering department only, the supply does not meet the demand."

Such was the burden of Mr. Woodrow's remarks in the Education report for 1871-72. We understand the complaint to apply to English-taught men only, and the constant repetition of such remarks, but other persons and in other places, renders them somewhat conspicuous. The educated Bengalee has become a drug in the market. As a fact, every employer of intellectual labour is cognisant of it, but whether the article can be correctly described by the term "educated" is a subject of legitimate doubt, and the question will be settled precisely as we may fix the limits to which our definition of the term is to extend. To some minds, the limit

of the University degree of Bachelor of Arts will recommend itself as that below which the range of the educated man cannot extend; to others, the standard of the First Arts examination may be the limit, while a third class may look still lower. We are disposed to think that no man should be held entitled to the designation, who does not possess the amount of learning, sufficient to enable him to pass the examination for a Bachelor's degree at the University. We have met with men holding the licence in Arts, and with some having a degree, of whom we should be loath to say they were "educated". An advertisement for a post valued at a hundred rupees a month will attract a hundred applicants, who have either passed the entrance or have just failed for the want of a few marks. These, we have no hesitation in saying are not "educated"; for out of the hundred, it will be difficult to select more than two or three men whose attainments meet the most modest requirements; and not more than ten could in all likelihood be appointed to intellectual work of any kind. Yet, because of a very limited knowledge of English, every man of the hundred considers himself worth a hundred rupees a month; and, as a fact, numbers of their class do get a hundred rupees a month All we can say is, that no other country in the world pays so dear for such labour.

...But all these "educated men" consider themselves worth from £ 48 to £ 120 a year and a country where living is cheap, they earn more money as a fact than numbers of well-educated curates in an expensive country like our own. That this is no exaggerated complaint may be readily seen from the following figures showing the number of "educated men" produced by the educatioal machinery of Bengal, since the University of Calcutta commenced its examinations in 1857 down to the examination of 1874. Out of 20,812 students then who went up for the entrance examination, only 9,220, or less than one-half passed. Out of 4,688 students who entered for the First Arts examitation but 2,076 passed. Out of 1,971 men who went up for the B. A. examination, less than the half, or 908, passed; and out of 313 men who went up for the M.A. degree

sixty [illegible] passed. As the First Arts, B. A. and M. A. men are included in the entrance passed lists, this gives us a total of 1,230, or less than 20,000 "educated men" in the broadest sense of the term, to supply the requirements of the large provinces of Bengal, containing a population of upwards of sixty millions of souls.

[illegible] November 1873

A SRADHA CEREMONY (Editorial)

The Mitter Brothers of Cowringhee have celebrated the shrad of their mother with great eclat. 800 Brahmans, 1,000 Cayasths, and 1,000 Nabasaks were feasted. Gifts were made to all the Brahmans, and charitable doles given to 12,000 poor people. But the most novel feature of the shrad was that the Hindu visitors of Europe, who since their return have lived as if they were outcasts, were invited to the dinners given on the occasion. The Mitter Brothers deserve great credit for this proof of their enlightenment. They were loyally backed by Rajah Kamal Krishna, the President of the Dharmaraksini Sobha, and by the Duke of Hamilton's. One Rajah opposed the movement, but we forbear naming him.

31 December 1873

THE ASSAM FRONTIER (Editorial)

Although our relations with the frontier tribes of Assam during the years 1873-75 were not of a peaceful nature, the lessons taught them during the period will, it may be hoped, lead to some good results. In 1873, Tongso Penlow, the Bhotan chief and the Deb Rajah, each sent an officer to recover from the head of the Dewangiri settlement the sum of Rs 374 or in default to take him to the Sobha. The Deputy Commissioner was however, prompt in these high-handed proceedings, after explaining to them that Dewangiri being British

territory, neither Tongso Penlow nor the Deb would be permitted to levy taxes thereon. Some difficulties appear to have been experienced in demarcating the boundary line between Assam and Bhotan, but with one or two exceptions they were overcome. Colonel Godwin's opinion that the boundary would not interfere with the privilege of grazing, hunting and fishing hitherto enjoyed by the border tribes. The Akas, formerly a powerful and turbulent tribe, have steadily refused to recognise the boundary laid down for their territories, and lay claim to a tract of some 15 square miles containing duplicates, salt licks and valuable timber etc. It was decided in June 1874, that the Deputy Commissioner of Durrung should proceed with a strong guard during the cold weather, and authoritatively mark off the boundary. The origin of the Duffla Expedition is curious and interesting. The Tagins, a clan of the Duffias, living about North Lukimpore, made a raid on Assamese, in Durrung, not with any political motive, but to seize a number of slaves to appropriate for those who had died of a disease which they believe had been brought into their villages by the people of Assam. This violent proceeding led up step by step to the expedition.

An annual fair is held at Udalgiri at foot of the hills, where commodities to the value of about £ 10,000 changed hands. The Bhootias bring down ponies, sheep, dogs, salt, a little gold, blankets, yaks' tails, musk etc, and take back in exchange English and Assam cloths, threads, rice, betel-nuts, brass and iron cooking utensils bar iron, beer etc. Unlike other parts of India where fairs are held for a few days only the fair at Udalgiri lasts a whole month, and a permanent encampment is formed, the articles for sale being brought in instalments. The attempt of the Bengal Government to establish a fair at Durrung, in the Goalpara district, proved a failure only six or eight Bhootias having visited it. The experiment is to be abandoned. An annual fair of somewhat similar kind at Sadiya, to which the Mishmis, Singpos and Chunglo being down India-rubber, wax, musk and ivory.

The negotiations with the Nagas, south of Jaipur, as to

the final transfer of the Namsang and Hukanjuri gardens, were brought to a close in 1874-75. These gardens and that called Tanrack, were taken up by Government about the year 1833-34, on account of the indigenous tea growing on them, but were transferred to the Assam Company on the relinquishment of the Government undertaking : the Company paying a yearly subsidy of Rs 200 or Rs 250 tothe Naga Chiefs. The private owner into whose hands the garden afterwards passed, continued to pay the subsidy until 1873, when Mr. Minto was proprietor. About this time the Namsang Chief was reported to have assumed an attitude of hostility towards the gardens, and Mr. Minto's representations on the unsatisfactory status of the gardens came to light, and a settlement was at last arrived with the Nagas on the following basis : –

I – That the Naga Chiefs should receive an annual subsidy of Rs 450 in perpetuity, the amount being paid by Mr. Minto.

II – That this payment should cover claims not only in respect of the tea-gardens of Hukanjuri and Namsag, but of all the tract of country which comes within the "inner line" and over which the Namsangias have hitherto asserted rights.

The prevalence of slavery among the Garos still continues. A Garo will pledge labour for life, for a sum of Rs. 30 to Rs 50, or even less. In British Garo, a slave allowed to buy his freedom. He is generally allowed a small plot of ground, and an hour or two each day, or sometimes every fifth day, on which to cultivate it ; thus he may in the course of years accumulate a sufficient sum to pay off his debt and obtain his release. In some cases, he obtains his release by leaving a child or children to work in his stead. Such a state of hings in British territory will perhaps startle some of our readers. It is, however, satisfactory to find, that the local officials have resolved upon stamping out this blot in the Assam administration.

23 December 1875

THE BRAHMO-SAMAJ
By Max Muller

The same effect which Mohamedanism produced on Hindooism is now being produced in a much higher degree on the religious mind of India by the mere presence of Christianity. That silent influence began to tell many years ag », even at a time when no missionaries were allowed within the territory of the old East India Company. Its first representative was Ram Mohun Roy, born just one hundred years ago, in 1772, who died at Bristol in 1833, the founder of the Bramho-Samaj. A man so highly cultivated, and so highly religious as he was, could not but feel humiliated at the spectacle which the popular religion of his country presented to his English friends. He drew their attention to the fact, that there was a purer religion to be found in the old sacred writings of his people, the Vedas. He went so far as to claim for the Vedas a divine origin, and to attempt the foundation of a reformed faith on their authority. In this attempt he failed.

...But granting all this, we may well understand why so an attempt to claim for these books a divine origin, and thus to make them an artificial foundation for a new religion, failed. The successor of Ram Mohun Roy, the present head of the Brahmo-Samaj, the wise and excellent Debendranauth Tagore, was for a time even more decided in holding to the Vedas, as the sole foundation of the new faith. But this could not last. As soon as the true character of the Vedas which but few people in India can understand, became known, partly through the efforts of native, partly of European scholars, the Indian reformers relinquished the claim of divine inspiration in favour of their Vedas, and were satisfied with a selection of passages from the works of the ancient sages of India, to express and embody the creed which the members of the Brahmo-Samaj hold in common. The work which these religious reformers have been doing in India is excellent, and those only who know what it is, in religious

matters, to break with the past, to forsake the established custom of a nation, to oppose the rush of public opinion, to brave adverse criticism, to submit to social persecution, can form any idea what these men have suffered in bearing witness to the truth that was within them.

They could not reckon on any sympathy on the part of Christian Missionaries; nor did their work attract much attention in Europe till very lately, when a schism broke out in the Brahmo-Samaj between the old conservative party and a new party, led by Keshub Chunder Sen. The former, though willing to surrender all that was clearly idolatrous in the ancient religion and customs of India, wished to retain all that might safely be retained: it did not wish to see the religion of India denationalised. The other party inspired and led by Keshub Chunder Sen went further in their zeal of religious purity. All that smacked of the old leaven was to be surrendered. Not only caste, but even the sacred cord the religious riband which makes and marks the Brahman, which is to remind him at every moment of his life, and whatever work he may be engaged in, of his God, of his ancestors, and of his children—even that was to be abandoned, and instead of founding their creed of the utterances of the ancient sages of their own country, all that was best in the sacred books of the whole world, was selected and formed into a new Code.

The schism between these two parties is deeply to be deplored; but it is a sign of life. It augures success, rather than failure for the future. It is the same schism which St. Paul had to heal in the Church of Corinth, and he healed it with the words, so often misunderstood, "Knowledge puffeth up, but Charity edifieth." In the eyes of our missionaries this reform in India has not found much favour: nor need we wonder at this. Their object is to transplant, if possible, Christianity in its full integrity from India to England, as we might wish to transplant a full-grown tree. They do not deny the moral worth, the noble aspirations, the self-sacri-

ficing zeal of these native reformers; but they fear that all this will but increase their dangerous influence, and retard the progress of Christianity; by drawing some of the best minds of India, that might have been gained over to our religion, into a different current. They feel towards Keshub Chunder Sen as Athanasian might have felt towards Ulfilas, the Arian Bishop of the Goths: and yet what would have become of Christianity in Europe but for those Gothic races, but for those Arian heretics, who were considered more dangerous than downright pagans?...

17 January 1876

LANDLORD AND TENANT (Editorial)

The relations between landlord and tenant, says the last annual report of the Board of Revenue, "are still in the feudal stage." The words are used with special reference to Chota Nagpore, but the statement is very often made as to Bengal generally. And those who use the phrase seem always to think that it conveys praise. Indeed they very often express a regret that society in these provinces is passing out of the "feudal stage", that the lawyer and the judge are acquiring the power once exercised by the landlord. The good old days, when the zemindars cherished their ryots as children, and the ryots venerated the zemindars as fathers, are looked back to with an affectionate admiration. Some writers even go so far as to ask us to do what we can to restore things to their old state by strengthening the hands of zemindars and giving them legal and summary powers. We are not sure whether these persons quite understand what the feudal system was. Under it there were three classes, the lords, the vassals, and the actual cultivators. Of these, the first two classes were united together by endearing ties, they fought side by side in the field, and feasted together in the hall. The feudal system was certainly not a bad institution for them. The third class con-

sisted of the serfs, and it was on the produce of their labour that their superiors lived. They were half-clothed, ill-fed, ill-treated. They hated the feudal system, and often rose in revolt against it, in insurrections such as that headed by Jack Cade. Now, if there is anything feudal in Bengal, it is to be remembered that the masses here belong to the third class. We may possibly compare zemindars to Barons, the Brahmins and Kyasts who hold rent-free or service lands to the substantial vassals, and grant that they profit by the feudal regime. The ryots on the other hand, inevitably lose by it.

Examined more closely, in what does the feudality of our land system consist? Certainly not in any love of the ryots for the zemindars. In these provinces such affection is out of the question. A landlord residing among his tenantry may win their confidence, particularly if he be of a family locally known. But in Bengal land is not owned by individuals, it is held by companies. Each village pays its rent to some dozen co-sharers. These do not even agree among themselves. "Joint proprietors," writes Mr. Smith, in a letter published in the report of the Board now before us, "are generally at variance. Suspicious of each other, they will agree on no course of action. The result is that their servants can get and obey no orders, are under no supervision and no control, plunder their employers and the tenants alike, till in the end the former are ruined and disappear, giving place to new owners, whose energy and freedom for a time evolves order out of chaos, till the eventual sub-division of the property by the native laws of inheritance, the former state of things returns, and chaos reigns again." These co-sharers are generally absentees; they live in Calcutta and know nothing of their estates, except the amount of rent. They are Hindoos while the cultivators are Mahomedans. It is simply absurd to talk of the ryots feeling any affection toward these companies of quarrelsome shareholders, of whose very name they are often ignorant.···

14 March 1876

HOTEL LIFE (Editorial)

A singularity of the Indian hotel is the approximation of roughness and refinement within its walls. We see it in the company, the servants, the furniture, the cuisine, everything, and though India is not Colarado or the prairies out West, one sometimes may admire a veritable backwoodsman, in appearance, sitting cheek by jowl with a lady of fashion at the table d'hote. In London, again one would feel surprised in observing among the luggage of an arriving guest a camp bedstead, a mattress, and a huge brass basin, with tripod stand ; but this is nothing out of the way in an Indian hostelry : nor yet the bacon, the soup tins, or the half-emptied sack of potato with which number 33 is seemingly about to provision his bedroom. Who knows where No. 33 has come from ? Perhaps Thibet, or Cape Comorin, or Assam. And who cares ? There is a languid curiosity exhibited by the dwellers within the Indian caravanserai which accept it very much as a matter of course, whether one's neighbour should have just come from the North pole, or the Equator. The stranger in India must feel very strange indeed the first time he sits down to dinner at the table d'hote of, say, one of the Bombay big hotels. The food and the company are so different that from what he left in Europe. The queer fish and fruits, the distinguished waiters – Generals and Colonels of the army of Goa he will be told – and the extraordinary mixture of the guests. The pallor of the faces of some of the old stagers might lead him to suspect that the banquetted like ghouls in the Towers of Silence, but there are red-faced men too, who seem to have taken some of the ruddy glow of the Indian Aurora into their visages...

Hotel life is not without disagreeables – what life is? Hotel mosquitoes are the most blood-thirsty set, and constant experience teaches them the way in. We have sometimes thought that the native who makes hotel beds in India is what Mr. Weller believed the pike-keeper was in England – a misanthrope desirous of paying off his scores against man-

kind. The supposition is countenanced by the inevitable hole in hotel mosquito curtains, with the everlasting absence of soap from the soap dish. ...The worst of hotel life is its unrest. Although people say that life in India tends towards the American acceptation of the term, we do not think the day will ever arrive when Englishmen in the East will forsake domestic comfort to reside on stories and flats. We are too fond of the dishabille of existence for that. The toilettes, the fuss, and the great company of the table d'hote may please the ladies for a time, but there is a yearning for shirt-sleeves and pyjamahs among male creation which is not to be ignored in the matter. To be all day decently dressed, and to be all day mopping the perspiring brow, is a sad trial to mankind in the tropics, but such is the burden of life in an Indian hotel, unless one is prepared to set etiquette in defiance, and do what one saw one man do – walk about the passages in his shirt. Possibly, in the glorious future which everyone creates for himself, hotel speculators will hit upon a plan which will reconcile the inconsistencies of hotel life in India with the more tranquil decorum of a similar existence at home ; but there is much to be done, many idiosyncracies to be coaxed into coercion, before we give up our bungalows and their Bohemianism for the public life of local "Langhames" and "Brevoorts". In the Indian caravanserai, one does not lose one's individuality, or exchange it for a number as in the monster hosteleries of Europe or America, but until we can do so to all intents and purposes, the mere curiosity and inquisitiveness of hotel social life must prevent it from becoming anything institutional in this land of caste and prejudices.

27 March 1876

THE RUSSIAN ADVANCE (Editorial)

Every one must, we think, be struck by the curious inconsistency of the views commonly urged upon us, by what

we may perhaps call without offence, the semi-alarmist school of writers on the Russian advance. Thus a review writer in the Englishman tells us that, "while few sensible people in the present day believe that Russia has any serious idea of invading India, or hope of driving us from it, there are, perhaps, fewer who are blind to the twofold danger in which her contact with our North-West frontier would involve us."...

...Now we think it right to avow our belief that there is real danger to our rule from the disaffection of the Native Princes of India, and the discontent of its influential classes. But instead of setting ourselves with simplicity of purpose to remove the sources of this disaffection and discontent, the whole thought of these writers is, how to keep the sparks away from the powder magazine. How can the Nizam for instance, be anything but disaffected, while we persist in withholding the Berars from him, to whom before God and man, they rightly belong. We may make the Nizam the firmest friend we have in the country, by simply restoring to him what we are dishonestly keeping from him. And so with the discontent of the influential classes.

22 April 1876

CULTIVATORS OF THE BERARS (Editorial)

...The Englishman is heavily to blame for admitting such a paragraph into its columns. Observe the statement that –

For generations the cultivators of the Berars have looked upon themselves as British subjects, and landed property in the Berars has attained its present value under the protection of British law and justice. We are asked by a professed philanthropist to rob the cultivators of all their rights and privileges under our law, and the land of most of its values, by making the Berars over to a native Government.

For generations ! Why, we never set foot in the Berars until 20 years ago ! Our contemporary should shew a little

more distrust of the gentlemen who favour him with leading articles, and who draw on their imagination for their facts.

25 April 1876

BURRA BAZAR FAMILY LITERARY CLUB

To the Right Hon'ble Edward Robert Lytton, Bulwer-Lytton, Baron Lytton of Knebworth, in the county of Hertford, and a Baronet of the United Kingdom Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

My Lord, – We the members of the Burra Bazar Literary Club desire to offer your Lordship our hearty and sincere congratulations on your Lordship's assumption of the high office of Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

As a literary body which aims at bringing Europeans and natives together in literary union and intellectual sympathy in promoting the cause of social and moral progress in this country, and in diffusing among the masses such knowledge as its means and opportunity would afford, we hail your Lordship's advent among us as the representative of the Gracious Queen of England and Empress of India with feelings of peculiar gratification. We take your Lordship's appointment as an honor to literature, of which your Lordship is the ornament and pride.

Our Society has enjoyed for a long time the support, sympathy and encouragement of the foremost members of the Civil and Military Services of Her Majesty and the elite of the European and native community. We trust that your Lordships broad and generous sympathy and kindly encouragement will be vouchsafed to us in the furtherance of the objects which our club aims at promoting. ...

We have the honor to be.

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient servants,

H. Woodrow, M. A. President.

E. P. Wood, B. A. Barrister-At-Law, Vice-President.
Prosaud Dass Mullick, Honorary Secretary.
Benode Behary Mullick, Assistant Secretary.
J. G. Charles, C. S. ; Bhuggobuty Churun Mullick ; Sree Nauth Chunder ; J. W. Furrell ; Clifford J. Brooks ; Roy Grish Chunder Dass, Bahadoor ; Sham Chand Auddy ; Gobin Chand Auddy ; Loke Nauth Mullick ; Kally Dass Seal ; Toolsy Das Dutt ; Nobin Chunder Auddy ; Woodhub Charan Mullick ; M. R. Shircore ; Hurry Mohun Seal ; Bonomally Mullick ; Sham Lal Mullick, Members.

Calcutta 22nd April, 1876.

25 April 1876

THE BENGAL IRON WORKS

These important works are situated on the East Indian Railway, 141 miles from Calcutta, and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the Burrakur river. The site chosen for the works is the most elevated part of the railway, and on sanitary grounds, the Company have been fortunated. The land adjoining the works supplies the ore, and the Company own a considerable area around them. The works comprise at present two blast furnaces about 66 feet high from hearth to summit. These are charged with raw materials by means of a hoist frame and gangway between them, to the top of which the material is raised by steam engine. The hot blast, now universally used with coal and coke, is supplied by a blowing engine and heaters of ordinary construction which, we are glad to learn, are found to work admirably with Indian coal, the blast being supplied at a minimum temperature of 700 degrees. The fierceness of the blast can be tested at any moment by inserting a rod of lead in the blast pipe, when it is seen to run like tallow from a farthing dip. The slag and pig iron are run into separate beds to the east of the furnaces, and the appearance of the former removes all doubt, we are told, as to

(Mr. Whitelaw) the Manager's power to make his materials blend harmoniously in the furance. A foundry fitted with all the necessary tools and appliances, is in course of construction. Judging from the growing feeling there is in fav ur of cast-iron sleepers, as well for their intrinsic merits, as on account of the high price of timber, the foundry should find ample and remunerative employment. An early extensions of the Works to the manufacture of wrought iron is contemplated, and a complete scheme is, we understand to be laid before the shareholders as soon as the exact descriptions of the work, with which the Government requires to be supplied are ascertained. The buildings were commenced about the middle of February last year, and they began to run iron on Saturday, the 29th April last. The Company hopes to have a big foundry going in three months, and rolling mills also are contemplated.

8 May 1876

OUR NATIVE JUDGES (Editorial)

We cannot too warmly thank the Statesman for its disinterested and eloquent advocacy of the claims of the children of the soil to the service of their own country. The English have governed India for nearly a century and a quarter, and they have studiously excluded the natives from the higher ranks of the public service with rare exceptions here and there. They have always professed that the public service of India shall be thrown open to all classes of the Queen's subjects without distinction of race, country or colour, but they have practically treated the natives no better than Helots destined to remain hewers of wood and drawers of water. In the East India Company's Charter of 1833 this broad principle of employment in the public service of India was first declared, and it was soon after put to the test by an application made by the foster son of Rajah Rammohun Roy, and as

usual he was humbugged. Even the influence of the late Babu Dwarkanath Tagore, the Indian Croesus, could not obtain for his son Babu Nogendranath Tagore a niche in the temple of the favoured service. Public opinion was, however, too strong, in 1853 on the renewal of the Company's Charter the doors of the Civil Service were thrown open to public competition. In 1857 a Parsi candidate appeared, but before the examination had been held the minimum limit of age was reduced, and this candidate's hopes were dashed to the ground. Some years after a grandson of the late Babu Dwarkanath Tagore successfully passed the competitive test, and immediately after the marks for the oriental classics, which were thought to be favourable to the Indian candidates were reduced. Still the enterprising youths of India did not lose heart, but braved the dangers of the deep, and the chances of competition. About half a dozen of them passed and it was thought that the only way of averting the calamity of native competition would be to appoint Indians to the Civil Service by direct nomination in India, which would necessarily do away with the system of competition for them. But no appointment has yet been made under the new Parliamentary Act, while the natives themselves prefer competition to nomination. The latest device for thwarting native ambition is the reduction of the minimum age of candidates for competition and the further lowering of marks for oriental classics...

16 June 1876

ANNEXATIONS OF DALHOUSIE (Editorial)

It is a very singular fact, that the annexations of Lord Dalhousie have in the main proved very disastrous to the people of the annexed provinces. The Punjab was a legitimate acquisition. It was made under no false pretences of concern for its people, but was the result of an unprovoked and open attack upon us, with the avowed purpose of subverting our

empire. And the fortunate Punjabees have every reason we believe to rejoice at coming under our rule. On the other hand, we seized Nagpore, Jhansi, and Oudh upon pretences that were thoroughly immoral, and it is most distressing to note the miseries that our rule has brought upon them all. At the time we seized Jhansi (1853) it was probably the best governed little territory in India. It was the worst of all Lord Dalhousie's annexations, and it is difficult to read the story of the wrong as it appears in the pages of the historian, without emotion. Some one, we never knew who, sent us in the depth of the mutiny, the Ranee's petition to the House of Lords against the wrong that had been done her family, and it was impossible to read it without deep indignation. The petition had been sent to England, and had been thrown under "their Lordships table," as every other memorial of the kind was. The Ranee was the heroine of the Rebellion. She took the field against us, and fell disguised as a trooper, fighting sword in hand against us before Gwalior. And today 24 years after the annexation, if we inquire into the condition of Jhansi, the honest answer is, that our rule has reduced the people from a condition of the highest well-being to one of deep distress and misery, which the Government is at its wit's end to remedy. "It was only the other day," says the Board of Revenue in 1872, "that we sent to Government a report by the Commissioner of Jhansi calling their most serious attention to the distress prevailing in that division ; to the exodus going on there ; to the spread of kans grass ; to the indebtedness of the proprietors : and to the measures necessary for immediate or early relief." Our rule introduced the Marwarees into the little State ; and as the Deputy Commissioner writes, "they have sucked it dry."

We have the same humiliating story to tell of Oudh. What blessings were not to follow to the people from our seizure of the Nawab's overflowing treasury. Suffice it to say that the masses of the people have sunk under our rule into a depth of misery almost inconceivable, and that we profess our com-

plete inability to do anything to rescue them from it. Meanwhile the province is the garden of India and the granary of Rajputana and the North-West ; while we have neither the insight nor the courage to do the two things that would redeem the people....

26 June 1876

THE INDIAN STAGE (Editorial)

...The Indian Stage, it must be acknowledged, has other difficulties to contend against besides those mentioned. The female element is almost absent. Of course boys and young men dressed in petticoats must be put out of the discussion, for they are fit for nothing but the broadest burlesque, but the choice of selection that remains after these for a Station Manager is very limited. It lies between the ladies of the station and the soldier's wives. Now, some of these latter display a good deal of histrionic ability. They do the chambermaid style of business very well and they can sing and dance very fairly when their modesty does not overwhelm them. For, curiously enough, though brought up in a baggage wagon, the barrack belle is very shy of the footlights, and if she is not altogether stolid and stupid, with an Irish brogue, or a Cockney "accent", he will exhibit a truly unfashionable objection to low bodies and high skirts, with an utter abhorrence of tights quite admirable. We rather suspect that the morality of the stage does not count for much in the barracks, and there is no denying that burlesque – modern burlesque with its half nude women and semi-decent dancers, has done much to bring the stage into ill-order with husbands and parents of would-be female performers thereon. The man who would not object to see his wife or daughter play Rosalind, or Lady Macbeth, would not allow her at any price to appear at Galatea, or some classical burlesque character of that kind, and he is right – burlesque is not the stage; it is – burlesque.

There are many people who dislike to see ladies on the stage, thinking them out of place there. Women, however, have generally a larger talent for acting than men. They have more grace and freer action – gifts not to be despised on the stage; but then as amateurs they are terribly prone to self-consciousness, and not one in a hundred can disembody herself, and throw herself into her part. And a poor female performer is very poor indeed. The pseudo actress who only thinks of her dress, or of what "people are saying of her" is a greater dead weight on an Indian stage than the bashful, egotistical or bombastical actor himself. We can laugh free at the last, for he is giving us real burlesque without knowing it, but politeness if not pity prevents us ridiculing the first, and we long for her to be away in her bed, or with her baby – any where but on the stage.

As for the propriety of ladies acting on the Indian stage, it much depend upon the company they play with, and the parts they play. It is a question upon which there will always be strong differences of opinion, and that is all that is necessary for us to say on it. Certainly, we cannot say much for the histrionic talent of the ladies we have seen from time to time acting. The labor, even more than the men, under the disadvantage of want of study and instruction, and until both can be had in India, the Indian stage will never be any better than it is.

5 July 1876

THE INDIAN PRESS (Editorial)

...The Government is far less ready than it formerly was, to avail itself of the help of the press is the only way in which it can properly be given. As to its value, Lord William Bentinck assured a deputation that waited on him in this city many years ago, "that he had derived more information from the Indian press of the real state of the country,

than from all the Councils, all the Boards, and all the Secretaries by whom he was surrounded." And no one can honestly maintain that the press is not more ably conducted today than it was then ; but the Government, as a whole, has come to look with less magnanimity upon it than it used to do, especially upon the communications of its servants therewith, and in particular upon any criticism of its conduct thereby. The change is not so for the better but for the worse. To expect the Indian press usually to support what the Government does, is to mistake its vocation altogether ; and if we exclude loyal and well-informed criticism from its columns, we must not complain if they are filled with what is not loyal and is ill-informed. By drawing much nearer to the press, without any attempt to influence it otherwise than by sympathy, very much might be done to raise the character of the vernacular press of the country, and certainly much might be done to improve the character of the English press. But we rarely see an official man in India, who really takes the press to his heart. He will admit in words its value, but is slow of heart to recognise frankly its worth...

11 July 1876

BRAHMO SAMAJ

(From our own Correspondent)

Mufussil Letters. Burdwan, July 23.

The condition of the Burdwan Brahmo Samaj is very deplorable. There is not more than a dozen members at present, and I see no improvement of the Samaj since the departure of the Secretary Baboo Chundra Sekur Bose from Burdwan. If the members try with their heart to spread the religion and improve the Samaj they would succeed.

The following well-wishers have subscribed the undermentioned sum of rupees to the Bar Library, Burdwan.

Rajah Bissessur Malia of Searsole	Rs. 200
Ranee Herasundaree	Rs. 100
Baboo Janaki Nath Mookerjee	Rs. 100

I am glad to hear that some of the gentlemen of this town are gathering subscriptions for the benefit of the orphans of the late Michael Madhu Sudan Datta.

27 July 1876

THE OLD ZEMINDARS AND THE NEW (Editorial)

The proprietor or landlord body consists of two classes :– the old zemindars and the new. The former are the old-fashioned, imprudent hereditary "squires", with whom great difficulty is experienced in making them raise the rentals of their tenants at all. Now this means that the State cannot raise its assessments : as the zemindar cannot pay what he does not exact. On the other hand, the new men – the mischievous class which our new rule has brought into existence consisting of the law agents, money-lenders, into whose hands we ought never to have permitted the land to go at all. While the old zemindar can hardly be got to enhance his rents, the new parvenu class exact a rack rent from their tenants. Both classes are alike in one respect, that they are pure drones in the social hive. Neither one nor the other does anything whatever for the improvement of the land. All that is done in that way is done by the actual cultivator, deep down in whose heart lies the notion of tenant right and peasant proprietorship, the foundation thought of Hindoo society everywhere concerning the land. Now it is impossible not to feel strong consideration for the old class of zemindar, the man who hates our new-fangled ways, and cannot understand why either our assessment should be increased upon himself, or why we should put him upon the hateful task of raising the rental of the tenants below him. The new zemindar, the class of mere middle-men, which in our folly we have begotten as a curse to the people, want no encouragement at all to enhance their rents, but with the instincts of rascally pettyfogging attorneys will use their legal powers to the utmost. To put a

check upon the rapacity of this class, we humanely but blindly enacted the hard and fast rule that a twelve years' holding at a fixed rental should confer an occupancy right upon the tenant. Instead of attaining its object, the effect of the rule has been just the same in the North-West as in Bengal, good care being taken by these middlemen that no tenant ever should hold for 12 years at a fixed rent.

4 August 1876

THE FIRST RAILWAY IN CHINA

On June 30 was consummated, in comparative quietness, and with little ceremonial an event that is likely to be the forerunner of the greatest political and social revolution that has marked either the past or modern history of China – an event that will do more, if properly followed up to bring the people of this great Empire within the fellowship of nations, than almost anything else that could be devised ; it is the thin end of a wedge, powerful enough to break the toughest obstacle to which its force can be applied. Steam has conquered, and will go on conquering even in China. Here, there are no old coach interests to set aside, no roads to render next to useless – all is fresh and novel as regards the introduction of steam on land, and the widest possible expanse is presented to the skill and energy of the modern engineer.

The little line, the opening of four miles and a quarter of which, between Shanghai and the village of Kungwang, is only a model to show the Chinese what railways are. The managers issued invites to as many ladies and gentlemen of the Settlements as the six carriages, which at present constitute the total passenger rolling stock of the Company, would comfortably accommodate. That number was 164, and we believe all accepted the invitation. Half-past five was the time appointed for the start, from the goods platform, at some distance down the line from where the Shanghai station is in

course of erection; and almost to the minute, the guests having taken their places, Mr. Morrison, the engineer and traffic manager, gave the word to go, and the first "Puffing Billy" (appropriately named the Celestial Empire) in China, drawing the regular passenger train, gave its premonitory shriek and whistle, and the train quickly began to glide out of the station, amid cheers of those assembled on the platform. The open country was soon reached, and as the train went steadily along at about fifteen miles per hour, and with a remarkable absence of oscillation, the country people at work in the fields simply ceased from their labour for the little time occupied in passing by, and then quietly resumed their employment.

11 August 1876

PASSING EVENTS IN A MOFUSSIL TOWN

(From a Correspondent)

KRISHNAGHUR, SEPTEMBER 23

As a chronicler of passing events in a mofussil town, let me begin my letter with a short account of the great Hindu festival which will commence from tomorrow. From the days of the battle of Plassey, it has been customary with the Krish Raj family to herald the approach of the festival with bloomings of the guns, which the Maharaja Krishna Chundra received as a gift from the hero of the battle, in recognition of his services to the English at the time. On the night of the 12th instant, exactly at 8 p. m. I heard the tremendous sound which was repeated the following morning, to proclaim to the Hindus, that the Bodun Poojah at the Raj Baree is begun. The Bodun Poojah is a kind of preliminary Poojah held for the wakening up the goddess (Doorga) from her bed of sleep; and the word Bodun, as derived from the Sanskrit root Boodh, meaning knowledge, and which signifies awakening up.

The festival is no doubt, welcomed with hearty joy by a very large section of the Hindu community, but it is no exaggeration to say that it has lost its primeval purity and charm with the English educated class of the community. A man possessed of ordinary power of observation, cannot but be struck with the strange contrast between the conduct of the educated and the non-educated classes of the Hindu community. While the non-educated class of the community enjoy their holiday time with pure simplicity, we the educated class having lost our faith in the religion of our ancestors, without embracing any other form of religious system extant in the world pass our time in consuming mutton chops, pilao and pale ale in company with some chosen friends. Such is the present state of the Hindu society. The following story which I have heard from a civilian, is too good to be lost. The story runs thus :

When Sir George Campbell was the Lord of Belvedere, he happened to inquire from his secretary, Mr. Bernard, I believe, whether there was any civilian on the Bengal list, who had not taken any furlough to England. The result of the inquiry was, that Sir George found out that Mr. Stephens, the then officiating magistrate of Krish, was the man, and on his coming to know from someone of Mr. Steven's Calcutta friends that Mr. Stevens did not like to avail himself of furlough, until he became a pucca magistrate, he gave him a lift over twenty other senior civilians. Sir Richard, as the story says, is now making a full reparation for the wrong done to those superseded civilians, by taking their claims first into consideration at the time of promotion.

Mr. Romesh Chundra Dutt, the Assistant Magistrate, is making himself popular here both with his official superiors and the native public. He mixes very frequently and freely with the respectable classes of the town, and is doing his duties most assiduously and conscientiously, notwithstanding his hard official work. He is now engaged upon two literary works which will be soon given to the public. I am happy to

say, that he is not one of these "beaureacratic men who carry their heads all day in the clouds" and look down upon those who do not belong to the heaven-born service. It is bruited here that the Ranaghat Deputy Magistrate, Mr. Addy, will be transferred to some other place ; and Mr. Beharilal Goopta of the Bengal Civil Service will be put in his place.

The good people of Krish are very anxious to get up a press here, and to start a diglot paper on the joint stock principle, with the expectation of getting the assistance of such able and renowned scholars as Babus Omesh Chunder Dutt, Prussana Coomar Bose, M. A., B. L., and the Pandit Soharam Shirorutna in conjunction with the support of the intelligent Bar here ; they have every hope to get their ideas realised provided they pull hard to command and deserve success. But if through fickleness of the purpose the projects come to a deadlock like Don Quixote's helmet, soon after its first appearance, let them not make the venture and stultify themselves in the eyes to the public.

The Municipal Overseer, whose case I alluded to in my last lerter, has been compelled by Mr. Stevens to resign. Mr. Stevens has done a public service by getting rid of such a dishonest man as the Babu was : we hope the Municipality will make a better selection this time.

26 September 1876

THE BETHUNE SCHOOL (Correspondence)

To The Editor of The Statesman

Sir,—In my first letter published in your issue of the 14th instant, I said that there is but one school for girls, the Bethune School, which is supported by Government at the cost of about Rs 700 per month. But notwithstanding this enormous sum of moneys pent upon it, the school is by no means a model institution of its kind ; it teaches scarcely about 60 pupils, and that in infant primers only. While Sir

George Campbell was the Lieutenant-Governor, he tried to raise the efficiency of the institution, by taking its management out of the hands of officers of the Education Department, and entrusting it to a newly-appointed committee, composed mostly of native gentlemen with Mr. Justice Phear as President. This was no doubt a move in the right direction, and it would have worked well if right men in the right place had been select. But Sir George made one mistake ; he invited gentlemen of widely diverse opinions and even of opposite views to work together, which of course could not but create faction. This division in the camp of the workers has done not a little to induce the present wretched condition of the school, and Sir Richard Temple is now anxiously looking for a speedy reform. But in his anxiety to do good, he has pro posed a remedy which is much worse than the disease itself, and will in all porbability be a death-blow to the institution. On the application of the Lady Superintendent of the American Zenana Misson, His Honor has expressed his willingess to make over the entire management of the school to her hands, and to allow for the expenses a monthly grant equal in amount to the sum now spent in maintaining it; on condition that the number of pupils on the roll must be raised to 300 day scholars, and 25 boarders. Now as the lady missionary is not prepared to accept these terms, unless full liberty is given her to instruct the pupils in her own religion, I am surprised to hear that the Lieutenant-Governor has given his acquiesence to it, forgetting evidently that the condition would be contrary to the object of the founder, and will necessarily lead to the withdrawal of many respectable Hindu pupils. If Sir Richard does not mean to destroy the institution, with street girls, he must reconsider this matter before he comes to a final settlement. I think the best thing he can do is to ensure the success of the institution, is to invite the founders of the new boarding school for young Hindu ladies, – gentlemen whose earnestness in the cause of female education is too well known to need any special mention here to take up the management of the school under

certain specific conditions. If these gentlemen will undertake to teach on the Government principle of strict religious neutrality, two hundred day pupils and twenty boarders at a cost not exceeding the present Government grant, I should think, considering the state of our society, this to be a fair number.

Two hundred pupils will but occupy a small portion of a building, which has accommodation for nearly six hundred girls. The remaining portions of the building must not remain unutilised and I would suggest the opening of a library and a gallery for the use of women only, which, besides a large number of books both in English and Bengali, should have all the works that are written specially for women and are procurable, and also the portraits of female celebrities, with a collection of useful and valuable specimen of industrial and aesthetic arts, done by them. I may venture to hope that many of our Bengalees will appreciate the boon, and gladly resort to it if such an opening be made to them. Such a place will not only be interesting, but very useful and instructive for our women to visit. This will also give them an idea of what their sisters in other countries have been able to do, and what they, with a good and liberal education, are themselves capable of doing; it may thus inspire in them a noble desire to better their condition, and to walk in the foot-steps of their more renowned sisters.

The building might also be used for conversaziones, soirees, and such other meetings as have for their object the welfare of women. Thus it might be made a central place for organised action, in woman's cause.

Calcutta, 25th October. Dum Spiro Spero

27 October 1876

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS

Professor Monier Williams was to sail for India again on the 12th of October. He is writing a work on the religious

systems and sacred places of India, to complete which it is necessary for him to make a tour in the Madras Presidency. He wishes also to collect manuscripts, books and objects illustrating the religion of India, for the Indian Institute to be founded at Oxford.

9 November 1876

THE MAHOMEDAN MANIFESTO (By the Urdoo Guide)

The assumption of the Imperial title by the Queen of England with reference to her Indian dominions, conveys no unmeaning sound; and we fully appreciate the wisdom of the statesmen who first perceived the incalculable advantage to be gained in the imaginative East, by formally and solemnly associating India with Her Majesty's Britannic possessions. We attach therefore an historic significance to the pageant which is being enacted at the present moment, at the time-honored seat of the Moguls. In 1858 Her Britannic Majesty had assumed the Government of India as successor to the East India Company. From 1877 the Queen will be the Empress of India, dejure and de facto – true and rightful successor of the glorious sovereigns who have ruled India from the historical capital, where, at this moment, hir representative is impressing the assembled Chiefs – who until now only dimly understood their relations to the Suzerain power with the Majesty of England and the glorious associations which from her heritage from the Akbars and Shah Jehans, Aurungzebes and Jehangirs. Our Sovereign is no more simply the Queen of England. She is the Empress of India, our Empress, entitled to our loyalty and allegiance, not as an alien Sovereign, who ruled us without recognition, but as our own national ruler, whom we might regard as the embodiment of our national aspirations. And, therefore, in assuming the title she assumes duties and responsibilities as well. We may now look forward that, with the commencement of a new era – not simply in a conventional sense, but as a fact – the subject popu

lations of India will be placed theoretically and practically on a footing of equality with the ruling race: that our just claims to a voice in the Government of our country, and a share in its administration will not be ignored or treated with contempt. Whatever the truth of the title by conquest, which Englishmen used to advance for ruling India for the benefit of Europeans and quasi-Europeans only, that title has been put an end to definitely, by the recognition of India as a constituent element of the British Empire. The Empire of England in this country is not meant to be based on brute force, but on the spontaneous affection and attachment of the people.

We accept the Manifesto heartily – Ed. S.

1 January 1877

THE FIREWORKS

Whatever apathy was displayed by the public respecting the so-called Durbar, and its attendant military spectacle, was completely thrown aside by the evening, when large crowds of pedestrians covered the maidan on the way to their trysting place; whilst the different roads leading to the race course were well nigh blocked with carriages, whose occupants of every age, colour and creed were evidently bent on being amused. On arriving at the grand-stand however, we were surprised to find it so thinly tenanted. By the time the first rocket was fired, the lower storey was tolerably filled, principally with native gentlemen ; but the long rows of empty chairs in the enclosure gave it a dreary look, whilst the "leading members of the European and native community" for whom the "limited accommodation" was said to be exclusively kept, seemed to have preferred some other standpoint whence to view the "spectacle", if indeed they patronised it with their presence at all.

There is not much to be said about the fireworks themselves, beyond that on the whole they were a success. The

rockets were particularly good, and the gorgeous showers of beautiful colours which burst from the and illumined the heavens, raised loud cries of wah-wah from the dense crowds of natives. The "concerted pieces" were not so successful. The first, after whirling round for a second or two and giving a few spasmodic splutters, went off in a dense cloud of smoke. The next was a portrait of someone – it was first judged to be Lord Lytton, then the Prince of Wales and finally it was pronounced by an excited spectator to more nearly resemble our respected townsman Mr. William Jones. We were informed that the next was to have been a portrait of the Empress, but Calcutta is evidently not in favour just now in high quarters, and Her Imperial Majesty did not deign to show herself to her loyal, if humble, lieges. There followed instead several very pretty specimens of few d'artifice, accompanied by perfect salvoes of magnificent rockets, whose coloured stars blended in the most beautiful manner, and then came the grand finale consisting of three waterfalls of fire, the smoking grandeur of which caused a great impression and the expiring rays of which illuminated by two gorgeous bouquets sent away the vast crowds in great good humour.

2 January 1877

THE STATESMAN (Editorial)

The large and rapid increase in the circulation of the Statesman, necessitates our enlarging our machinery. The extreme pressure upon our advertisment columns, has decided us also, as we have already intimated, to increase the size of the paper ; and pending these changes we must ask our subscribers to bear with the defects they find in our columns. During the last few weeks only we have registered 600 new subscribers, a success wholly without precedent in Indian journalism. The first issue of the weekly Edition will appear to-morrow morning ; and as we hope to make it an improve-

ment upon any overland paper that now leaves India, we shall be glad to register the merchants and banks of Calcutta as subscribers for their Home constituents.

4 January 1877

THE MIDNAPORE DURBAR

In honor of the assumption of the title of Empress of India by Her Majesty the Queen, a Durbar was held here on the 1st January 1877, in a pavilion erected on the jail maidan, and decorated with festoons of leaves and flowers. At almost all the cross-roads of the town noubat-khanas were erected, and they poured forth melodious strains as the 1st day of the new year dawned. The landed aristocracy, important officials, and the gentry of the town and the interior were invited. At 11½ a. m. three bombs were fired, to announce to the people that the grand and important ceremony was about to take place. But ere this signal was given the whole maidan was filled with a vast multitude and elephants with gorgeous trappings, long lines of carriages, and richly laced umbrellas imparted no inconsiderable grandeur to the scene.

Before the sound of the last bomb had died away, the zemindars, officials and gentry were seen entering the pavilion in the order which had been assigned to them in the programme. Just at 12, Mr. Harrison, District Magistrate, came, and the ceremony commenced. Major Hitchins, District Superintendent of Police, read out in a loud voice the Proclamation in English, which was followed by three cheers from the Europeans, and the boys of High School. Then it was read in Bengalee and during this important part of the ceremony the whole assembly continued standing. Just as the reading of the Proclamation was finished, one hundred and one bombs were fired.

8 January 1877

BRAHMO MARRIAGE

Six marriages were solemnized under the Brahmo Marriage Act (Act III of 1872) during 1875-76, being an increase of two over the number recorded in the preceeding year. Of these, three were registered in Calcutta, two at Bhowanipore and one at Dacca. The parties to one of the marriages were Europeans. Hitherto, with the exception of a single case, in which the parties were Mahomedans, all marriages under the Act have been contracted by Hindus.

10 February 1877

LADY GRADUATES (Editorial)

The British have made India a land of strange extremes. There is a long distance between Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen and a yonder squalid fakeer, between Mrs. Wheeler and a child widow on one meal a day, between Dr. Sircar and a vendor of native charms, and there will be a singular contract doubtless between the "sweet girl graduates", that we are now to look for from the Calcutta University, and the untaught matrons of twenty in the zenana. We have not yet heard what changes, if any, are to be introduced into the course of studies prescribed by the University by way of adaptation to the female candidates that are now to be admitted. If these are simply to de admitted to examination on condition that they submit to exactly the same tests as are now used for young men, we beg to enter our protest against the taking of such a step. But we hope to hear that some rational course of study is to be prescribed, and that these young girls are not to have their minds ruined for life by a course of cramming which can only make men monkeys—we dare not imagine what it will make of women.

19 March 1877

NATIVE APPOINTMENTS (Editorial)

We may again remind our readers of the meeting convened by the Indian Association, which is to be held in the Town Hall to-day. The subject to which the public attention is to be drawn, and on which the Association proposes to address the Houses of Parliament, is one of urgent importance. For now the Government seems to be in earnest in its determination to admit natives to the highest appointments, with such reservations as are deemed necessary from political considerations, it is of the greatest importance that the method of their admission should be that which is most likely to secure the best men, and to secure for the best men the least invidious position we can give them, both as regards their own countrymen, and as regards the present members of the Civil Service. We need not again repent our reasons for believing that a wise system of competition is on the whole greatly to be preferred to the system of nomination that seems to be contemplated. So far as we know the nature of the scheme which is to be advocated at the public meeting, it seems to be one which ought to be supported by the whole native community. The time for bringing it forward is most appropriate, as everything indicates that a considerable number of native appointments will shortly be made....

24 March 1877

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION (Editorial)

It is a significant fact that all sections of the native community have thrown aside for the nonce their differences and antagonisms, and stood shoulder to shoulder, and declared themselves with one voice, on the subject which drew together the monster meeting in the Town Hall on Saturday. Orthodox Hindus, Mussulmans, Brahmans, Christians, drawn together in unison, with one common object, is a sight which every true friend of Indian progress, and everyone who is alive to the

signs of the times, be he friendly or unfriendly, must regard with keen interest. The various local associations in this country with more or less of a political character are no doubt significant products of the times, full of the "promise and potecy" of a future political life and activity which will regenerate the peoples of India. But although the meeting on Saturday was convened by one association, that association aims at an imperial character, and has imperial objects. Those objects are such as every other native association must improve and will doubtless cordially assist, and as we have seen, all parties with one accord joined in the demonstration on Saturday. Nor must it be supposed that the movement is confined to the metropolis. The Indian Association is a missionary association. It aims at sending agents all over the country, and establishing branches in every important town. Regarding the object of Saturday's meeting, they have been in communication with leading natives in different parts, and have received expression of sympathy and promises of co-operation. The memorial – the result of the meeting, will be signed not only by inhabitants of Calcutta, but by representatives of other places, and will in fact, we believe, be a memorial to Parliament from the educated people of India. The appeal can hardly fall on unheeding ears. We may trust Parliament to recognise the importance of this movement, and to deal fairly, and frankly with the memorial. The movement perhaps marks a new stage in the political development of India, the germ of a new power destined to grow till it becomes gigantic and irresistible for good or evil – the peaceful, constitutional pressure of native Indian public opinion on the British Parliament. For good or evil we say ; which of the two will depend largely, we may assume, on the wisdom and true discernment of our rulers.

27 March 1877

THE GREAT LANDLORD OF INDIA – THE STATE

(Editorial)

It is not almost incredible when we reflect upon it that, although the State is the great landlord of India, and is deriving from its vast estate a rental of £ 20,000,000 a year, it has never taken the least practical interest in the agriculture of the country, nor attempted to improve the condition of the millions of its tenantry? The statement its absolutely true for all or practical purposes. During the century of our rule, we have talked much about the low state of agriculture in India and the impoverished conditions of it cultivators : but you look in vain through all the records of our administration for anything even distan ly resembling a strong, sustained interest in the improvement either of the soil, of the circumstances of our tenantry, or of their husbandry. Now it is no sufficient excuse for this astonishing neglect to reply that the administration has been overworked, and that the current business of the department has so completely exhausted the energies of our officials, that the great estate which the Commonwealth possesses in the soil has been perforce left to take care of itself. The truth is that the very thought ; or conception, of the duties which the possession of this estate involved has never properly entered the Government mind. What proof of the justice of the remark could be more positive than the fact that there is not a man to-day in anyone of the administrations that even professes to have the smallest acquaintance with agriculture as a practical art, or as a science. With so vast a stake in the soil, with so enormously valuable an estate in our possession, and with that estate in so backward a condition in all respects, one would naturally have supposed that one of the leading departments of the State would be sure to be a great Department of Agriculture, presided over by a Minister of eminence as an agriculturist, and filled with subordinates familiar with subjects of practical and scientific husbandry. Ten or twelve years ago

the attention both of the Home and Indian Governments was called pointedly to the astonishing neglect of which we are guilty in this respect, and for some time there seemed a hope that a real Minister of Agriculture would be appointed to organise such a department as we speak of, and grapple in earnest, by means of a competent agency, with the development of the resources of the Indian soil. But no true conception of what had to be done really existed. The living, vivid thought of what this Minister and his department were to be had nor real existence anywhere in either Government. And so the demand for this great and imperative improvement in our administration at last found expression in the constitution of what is not inaptly but contemptuously called the Etcetra Department....

10 April 1877

THE BENGALEE STAGE (Correspondence)

To the Editor of the Statesman.

Sir,—Observing the success of the theatrical stages in the metropolis, a few energetic gentlemen of Duckinsore intend to establish a permanent stage in the northern suburbs of Calcutta, to be patronised by some of our reputed modern dramatic writers and to be denominated the "Oriental Opera Company Limited." In the present state of progrees in our country, it is highly desirable that the generality of our enlightened public should exert their influence in upholding all such attempts. Moreover as it is new and original in its character, and as it is to be started as a Limited Company, there is every possibility of its meeting with support and success. The Directors of the Calcutta stages have done much towards the progress of dramatic literature in Bengal, and similar institutions in the vicinity of Calcutta will tend greatly to increase such progress. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the Directors of the Calcutta Theatres will not rest satisfied with what they have already

succeeded in doing, but exert their energy in establishing branch stages in all places of note throughout Bengal, and instead of regarding withfeelings of jealousy any attempt in this direction, will endeavour in every way to encourage and patronise such projects. In conclusion I hope that the Directors of the "Oriental OperaCompany" will not follow the example of the metropolitan theatres in the mania of introducing actresses in the company, for that would be detrimental to the morality of the public ; moreover it would be a great credit to them if they came out successful when the female parts are acted by the dramatis personæ themselves. In Europe, it is true, this practice has been in existence all along, but the time has not as yet arrived when we can safely follow the practice here without endangering the moral character of our rising generation.

Hoping you will kindly give the above few lines a place in your highly esteemed journal.

Calcutta, 24th July 1877. Purna Chundra Sarkar.

25 July 1877

COOLING APPARATUS FOR THE MOFUSSIL (Editorial)

Mr. Thomson, of Kooshtea, is patenting, we are told, a very simple but efficient cooling apparatus for the mofussil. It is simply a modification of the common *choonga*, whereby cold is produced by a solution of saltpetre that a bottle of beer, etc. and can be readily cooled down to between 40 to 20 F. In shape, the apparatus is simply a box rather more than a foot square every way, divided py a partition into two. The front division contains the bag in which the saltpetre is placed to dissolve, and space for two or three bottles to cool ; and the back division being a cistern in which to place water, and having underneath it a reciprocating arrangement by which the cold is retained within the apparatus. The saltpetre sol-

ution produced, is treated exactly as in the case of the common leaden-choonga, *viz.*, boiled down in a tinned copper pan, allowed to crystallise, and the crystals used over and over again.

1 September 1877

FAMINES IN INDIA

The famine in Madras is the eighteenth of those which have affected India since the commencement of the British rule, and the fourteenth during the present century. A writer in the *Edinburgh Review* gives the following table containing the dates of all the most serious famines on record ; –

1345 Approximtely
1471
1631 Reign of Shah Jehan.
1661 „ Aurungzebe
1733
1744
1752
1770 In Bengal
1783 Behar, Bengal & Punjab
1787
1797
1803 N. W. P.
1813
1819 North-West and Oudh.
1826
1832 Lower Madras
1837 N.W.P. and Lower Doab
1853 Higher Madras
1861 N.W.P. and Lower Doab
1866 Orissa and part of Bengal
1868 Raipootana
1874 Bengal and Behar
1877 Madras and Bombay

Of the more recent of these afflictions, the areas and population affected are stated as under : –

1837	20,000 to 25,000	Square miles	8,500,000 souls
1861	16,267	„	13,088,000 „
1866	30,257	„	16,236,506 „
1874	40,100	„	17,764,650 „
1877	138,911	„	26,897,971 „

12 October 1877

THE DRAMA IN BENGAL (Correspondence)

To the Editor of the Statesman.

Sir, – To the reflective student of vernacular literature, and to those who feel an interest in the study of the drama, nothing can be more interesting than the progress of this study in Bengal. In England the drama originated on the principle that what we see makes a greater impression on us than what we only hear. The object was also laudable. The desire on the part of the monks to impress the religious chronicles on the minds of the people originated the miracle plays or, moralities. The question now arises what object the directors of most of the stages here have in view ? Nothing laudable, I am afraid, but the gratification of unhealthy appetites. The words of Du Bellay were the key-note of dramatic performances on their origin in England. "Translation is not a sufficient means to elevate our vernacular speech to the level of the most famous languages. What must we do then ? Imitate the Romans as they imitated the Greeks, as Cicero imitated Demosthenes, and Virgil Homer ?" We have imitated England ; but we have imitated her in her worst features – those which tend directly or indirectly to deteriorate the morality of the public. Demoralization is by degrees spreading throughout Bengal. Even in the suburbs, and out in the mofussil, the directors of some of the theatres have done much to spread immorality. Respectable zemindars and men of honor have been seen to tolerate such performances in their own dwelling-houses. Such performances, no doubt, tend to improve dramatic literature, but are detrimental to the moral condition of the rising generation, inasmuch as they bring on the stage women of bad repute. Can no steps be adopted to reform the stages in this direction ?

P. SARKAR

30 October 1877

BENGAL THEATRE

On Wednesday night the rendering of Birungana, or the Indian Joan of Arc, at the above theatre was a success. The plot of the piece is that Suiga, the second spouce of the Rana of Oodeypore, rescues her husband from an enemy by a bold and heroic speech which excited such a thrill through the ranks of the soldiers whom she addressed that a victory was easily accomplished. The appearance on the stage of the heroine in costume a la militaire astride a charger moving about with the greatest sangfroid, excited quite a furore in the house. The applause was vociferous and the manner in which the piece was placed on the board is a credit to the management.

30 November 1877

CORINTHIAN THEATRE

"INGOMAR" was produced at this house on Wednesday night, and although played to a small house was enthusiastically received, and as the play is to be repeated this evening, we venture to abvise those who care to see a really beautiful drama excellently acted, to go and witness this most satisfactory presentment of the loves of Ingomar and Parthenia, by Mr. Leicester and Miss Euson. The fire and dash with which the gentleman plays the magnificent barbarian contrasts admirably with the classic grace, tenderness and pretty petulant ways with which the lady illustrates the dramatist's creation. It is a classic rendering of a classic part, recalling to the mind of the beholder.

"Shapes not yet dead
But in old marbles ever beautiful."

Three times were the lady and gentelman called before the curtain to receive the ovation which their acting the beauty of the piece so richly merited. As Polydore Mr. Edwin Shepherd had one of those parts which he knows so well how to play, the hard grasping character of the money-grubber, the pot-

roonery of the coward and the senility of age were all assumed and blended together most naturally. The Myron of Mr. Cowdry and the Timarch of Mr. F. Shepherd were also creditable and intelligent performances, and the act of Mrs. Bickerstaff was quietly and unobtrusively excellent. The piece indeed was throughout well played ; it ought to command a crowded house tonight.

30 November 1877

EDUCATIONAL REFORM (Editorial)

The question of educational reform is one of the most difficult with which we have to deal. Unfortunately it is one on which nearly everybody considers himself qualified to offer an opinion. If he has little to suggest in the way of actual reform, he can at any rate criticise the existing system, and ridicule its results. Men who have hardly an opinion on any other of our public questions, are often bigots on this particular subject of education. They believe that our Universities and Colleges are costly and pretentious shams, and that the educated native is a kind of charlatan who can do nothing thoroughly but murder the English language ; spread sedition among his less sophisticated countrymen and do his utmost to oust better men from posts in Government services. He is understood to have risen, as a rule, from a low rank, and is to be despised because, instead of mending quills, washing clothes, or weaving mats, he aspires to a clerkship in an office, the headmastership of a school, or the editorship of a vernacular paper. It is amusing and instructive to notice the scorn which many of our countrymen in India express for those plebian natives and East Indians who seek after genteel employment, as if no such thing had ever been heard of in England, or Scotland, as the poor man's son by dint of education, forcing his way upwards in the social scale. They condemn the natives for the caste prejudices which force the mass of the rising generation to cling to their hereditary occupations, and in the same breath

rebuke the youthful graduate who will not return from College to pursue his father's trade. Hardly more reasonable is the weapon of ridicule which we constantly see pointed, at what is called the "Baboo English" of our University graduates, often amusing and sometimes very ludicrous. But very few Englishmen can be found who are able to speak in any foreign tongue, with the ease and general accuracy with which the better specimens of this class, speak and write English, which is confessedly a very difficult language for a foreigner to acquire idiomatically. There is no doubt, we think, that a very large part of the current ridicule of the results of our education system, is inconsiderate and unjust.

But there is another class of critics, who are no less severe in their condemnation of our University system, and its results, whose opinions we cannot discount in this manner. We referred the other day, to a series of very able articles which appeared recently in the Pioneer. They were evidently written by an educational officer, and we have reason to believe that they represent, with a good deal of accuracy the views of the most earnest and accomplished members of the service ; in other words, of the men who are most intimately acquainted with the University and best know the worth of the education which is imparted under its direction. Perhaps the fiercest denunciation of the Calcutta University, and the style of education which it fosters, come from the Educational service itself. These men at least speak what they know ; and testify what they see daily ; and they tell us that education in any really valuable sense of the word, is almost impossible in our Colleges, as they are at present conducted. The curriculum of studies imposed by the University, and the system of examination are such, that no scope is given to the Professors for the intellectual training of their students, nor to the students themselves....

31 December 1877

THE BUREAUCRACY (Editorial)

The intensely bureaucratic character of our administration of India, received a striking illustration in the ceremonies and honors of New Year's day recorded in our columns of yesterday. Thus, the new Order of the Indian Empire, is opened by the ex-officio nomination thereto in a body, of all the members of the Governor-General's Council, the heads of all the local Governments, and eight of the Native Princes. What would be said in England, of a Ministry advising Her Majesty to institute a new Order of Honor, and the appearance of a Gazette, with all the members of the Cabinet at the head of the nomination? Does it not really strike the men who rule us, that this practice of decorating themselves, periodically in batches, has something of the grotesque in it, while destroying the significance, or what should be the significance, of such distinctions altogether. If it was desired to give eclat to the Order, was this really the way of doing it? What would have given real eclat to it, if meretricious eclat was aimed at, would have been the nomination of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh, Princes of the blood thereto, and a very small number of the nobility of England the Marquis of Salisbury, Earl Derby, Lord Halifax, the Duke of Buckingham, Earl Northbrook, Lord Lawrence, Lord Napier of Magdala, and the Viceroy. There is not a name here, whose appearance on the roll would not have given dignity and eclat to the Order, and had a powerful significance in the eyes of the great Native Princes, on whom the Order has been conferred. If we had really desired that the Order should be rated so low, as to make the distinction not worth having – what surer step could have been taken, than conferring it upon all the Members of the Council, and the men who happen to be at the heads of the various local Governments, in a batch ?...

3 January 1878

THE SAGAR MELA

We learn from an intelligent eye-witness of the Sagar Mela, which is held annually at the southern extremity of the Sagar island on the last day of the month of Pouse just past, which was the 12th instant this year, that unlike last year there was fair weather and nothing occurred to put the pilgrims to inconvenience. Last year there were drenching showers, and if it were not for the shelter afforded to many of the pilgrims in the abad of Baboo Prosad Dass Dutt of this city many might have perished. About 40,000 people gathered this year within an area of about two square miles, and they were carried by five steamers and a flat and about 600 country boats. Of the pilgrim steamers that of Messrs. Maclean and Co. was the most comfortable and fast going, and its commander was polite and attentive to the wants of the passengers. The gathering consisted of Bengalis, Urias, Nepalese, Burmese, Marwaris and other up-country people. There was a sprinkling of educated natives whose wonder and delight at the sight of the sea, says our correspondent, was most amusing.– *Patriot.*

22 January 1878

"EUROPE-RETURNED" HINDOOS (Correspondence)

To the Editor

Sir,–It is well-known that at the present moment the position of those native gentlemen who have visited Europe, as regards their families and orthodox Hindoo relations, is anomalous and unsatisfactory. On the one hand, the orthodox Hindoos, however they may wish to do so, cannot receive their "Europe-returned" relatives into their houses, until the young men have performed the usual rites and ceremonies for being purified. On the other the young men consider it infra dig and hard to be called upon to perform outrageous ceremonies when they assert that, in visiting Europe for edu-

cation and improvement, they have not discarded the faith for their fathers. The consequence is, that there is an estrangement between father and son, between brother and brother, between uncle and nephew. To bridge over the gulf, which is gradually widening, between the young men and their relatives, and to place the former in their legitimate positions among their countrymen, some of the leading men of the orthodox native community, who are well-known for their enlightenment, patriotism and sympathy for the progress and well-being of their country, and who are fully alive to the necessity of allowing an opportunity to those native gentlemen who have returned from Europe to be taken back into the bosom of their families, have placed themselves in communication with some of the principal pundits and adhyapaks of Calcutta, in order to obtain from them some authority from the Shastras, some vyavastha, which will enable both parties to come to an understanding on the vexed point without infringing caste rules, or violating the provisions of the Shastras. A very favourable opinion on the case in point has been received from that profound scholar and experienced propounder of Hindoo law, the venerable Bharat Chandra Siromoni, and it is expected that our worthy Principal of the Sanskrit College will, in a few days, give a similar favourable opinion. We thank both these gentlemen for their high public spirit, their encouragement of progress and for the absence of party feeling in their minds upon so momentous a question. The movement is looked upon with to prevent the meeting taking place.

DOORGA MOHAN DOSS

22 February 1878

MARRIAGE IN HIGH LIFE

For many a day past Calcutta had not seen the celebration of a marriage on such a magnificent scale as the wedding of the two sons of Baboo Kallykissen Tagore last week. Valuable presents were distributed among Brahmins and the relatives

and the friends of the Baboo, and alms were given to the poor. A grand pavilion modelled on that of Belgachia on the occasion of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales' reception, and exquisitely executed, has been put up, where nautches and theatrical performances have been held in celebration of the marriage. The street leading to the Baboo's house has been brightly illuminated with gas. A round of festivities has been going on for the last ten days. Besides the presents and amusements mentioned Baboo Kallykissen has given the munificent sum of Rs 10,000 to the District Charitable Society for the maintenance of native paupers. We believe he also contemplates to give a handsome contribution in aid of the proposed Technical College. – *Patriot*.

12 March 1878

REGULATING THF VERNACULAR PRESS (Editorial)

The Bill for the better regulation of the Vernacular Press was introduced and passed into law at a single sitting of the Legislative Council. The reason for this haste was the ordinary reason against haste ; to have passed the measure leisurely through the usual stages would have given time for public discussion ; while its very provisions would have offered a kind of guarantee to those writers whom it is meant to affect, that during the interval between its introduction and its becoming law they might use the utmost license with impunity. The character of some of the papers, as shewn by the specimens of their writings which were before the Council, was sufficient to justify an apprehension that they would without scruple make full use of this interval of license. A scandalous, if not substantially mischievous, agitation might have been the result. To prevent this, it was resolved that the measure itself should only be made public along with the announcement that it was the law of the land, and might immediately be put in force. Granting that the measure itself was a necessity, we are not disposed to quarrel with the manner in which it

has been enacted. And we are the less inclined to do so, because, always granting the necessity of special legislation, we are not disposed to think that the Bill could have been greatly improved by public discussion. Considering the very exceptional character of this piece of legislation, we think our legislators deserve some credit for having framed so unobjectionable a measure. The wisdom of its purpose being admitted, the manner in which it seeks to accomplish it, is likely, we think, to command general approval.

* * *

We now come to the question whether or not these writings are actually, as well as intentionally, injurious. Even were there good reasons for believing that they are still comparatively harmless, there is no doubt that the cub is rapidly growing into a tiger, and that it is much easier to tame it now, then it would be when it had advanced further in growth. But there can hardly be a doubt that the Vernacular Press is already a power in some parts of the country, and capable of breeding disaffection. And it is not merely to the faults or supposed faults of our rule, but to its very existence in the country, that it declares hostility. It aims at forming an opinion among its readers which shall be unflinchingly opposed to British supremacy in any shape or form, and its readers belong to a class whose ignorance and credulity make it almost certain that they will accept its teachings with ready credence. Now, we have ourselves had occasion recently, to point out that there are classes of our subjects, in some provinces at least, who are actually worse off under our rule, than they were under that of our predecessors. The assertion may be, and is, disputed ; but the most sceptical person who knows anything of the state of the country will admit, that the condition of what we have called the hungry classes is such that seditious writing cannot fail to act powerfully on their minds. The majority of these classes may be unable to read even the Vernacular papers; but they can gather in groups to hear them read and expounded. Now, while Government is really

anxious to improve the condition of those classes, it would be madness to ignore an agency which strives to make its best efforts misunderstood. It is endeavouring to educate the masses under it, in order that they may acquire the intelligence to enable them to improve the advantages which we offer them. And it cannot ignore an agency which seeks to turn this very education into a weapon to work its own overthrow.

16 March 1878

VERNACULAR PRESS ACT (Editorial)

Government having found it necessary to frame a Vernacular Press Act, should be very careful in searching out the roots of the evil whence the necessity springs. It would do well in the first place, we think, to get rid once for all of the belief, that what we call the sedition of the Vernacular Press is attributable to the personal discontent and disappointments of the editors. It is common to talk as if all these men were disappointed office-seekers, youths who thought their education gave them a claim on Government for employment, and who, finding their claim slighted, have taken to abusing in this way the Government they would fain have served. The vernacular papers we are led to infer, are little better than the vehicles of personal spleen. They are not to be regarded as interpreters of native opinion. The educated classes scarcely read them, and read them only with disapproval. The uneducated masses to whom they address themselves, are not disloyal ; but they are ignorant and credulous, and may be easily led to believe that all the ills of their life are attributable to the Government. So, although they are not disloyal, they offer a soil in which the seeds of sedition, sown by these journals, may strike deep roots....

22 March 1878

BROTHERHOOD OVER FOOD AND WINE (Editorial)

Few of us perhaps have any just conception of the gulf fixed between ourselves and the people of this country, by the fact that their caste prevents their eating and drinking with us. Dinners have been defined as the "ultimate act of communion." Men who can have communion in nothing else, who can but sympathetically eat together, rise inevitably into some glow of brotherhood over food and wine. The reflection is humiliating, but it is, we believe, a true one, that the peculiar difficulties which beset our rule of India, would all but disappear, if it were but possible for the people of all ranks to sit down with us at the dinner-table without constraint or embarrassment. Human nature being what it is, it is idle to suppose, that there can ever be any true fellowship or sympathy between races that can neither eat nor drink together. The dislike which many of us express for what we call the 'apeing' of European customs, dress, and manners by "Young Bengal" is natural perhaps, but is not wise. If the gulf which now separates the two races is ever bridged over, it will only be a revolution in the thoughts of the people concerning the European mode of life. So long as the most respectable of the Hindoo population are compelled by their early training and education to regard the European as 'unclean' because of that which 'enters into his mouth', there can never be any real fellowship between the races....

9 April 1878

VERNACULAR PRESS ACT (Editorial)

Though we have already dealt very fully with the Vernacular Press Act, it may be well to notice the reply of the *Hindoo Patriot* to some of our arguments. In answer to our contention that the Act is a political necessity, the Patriot observes that, if we are right, the argument applies to the English as well as to the Vernacular Press. Our contemporary's

argument is that the influence of the English Press is not confined to English-speaking natives, the papers published in English are translated in native courts, zemindaries and schools. If the Patriot seriously means to use this as an argument for putting the English Press on a level with the Vernacular, we shall let him have the full benefit of it. We are prepared frankly to admit, that there is an element of danger in the very free criticisms of Government in our own columns, and those of our independent Anglo-India contemporaries. But we honestly believe that this is far more than counter-balanced by the incalculable advantages arising from free criticism of the measures of Government, by an independent, and at the same time unmistakeably loyal Press. And it is because we have often feared that the Government would lose sight of the essential distinction between English and Vernacular journalism, and looking on the subject in the same light as the Patriot does, might subject us all to a "gagging Act", that we are able to welcome the recent legislation....

2 May 1878

DR. MOHENDRA LAL SIRCAR (Editorial)

We are very sorry to observe that the Medical profession have raised an objection to Dr. Mohendra Lal Sircar's nomination to the faculty of Medicine in the Calcutta University, on the ground that he practices homeopathy. The University is merely a corporation of learned men associated together for the purpose of maintaining a high standard of culture in the country, by making the diplomas which they confer the only passport of admission into the professions. No one questions in these days the integrity, or learning of the homeopathic physician, and no student can properly be admitted to a degree in any Medical school anywhere, who is not as able to pass an examination in the principles and learning of homeopathy as in those of the orthodox system of medicine. The physician who rejects homeopathic principles

and teaching as unsound, is still supposed to have mastered them, and to understand them as thoroughly as the homeopathic physician himself. On the other hand, the homeopathic doctor who practises Hahnemann's system of medicine, is a quack, unless he has the complete education of the orthodox, or what is called by way of distinction, the allopathic practitioner. These facts being admitted, it is simple persecution to lay either under disabilities on the mere ground that he follows the one or the other system in his practise. Dr. Mohendra Lal Sircar is a man of exceptional powers we believe, and high attainments, and he has slit full right to adopt the homeopathic mode of treatment with his patients, as any other mode. Presumably he is as learned and as well qualified to practise medicine, as any other physician in Calcutta, and we are bound to assume that if he largely adopts homeopathic treatment in his practise, he does so from absolute conviction that he obtains better results therefrom than from the ordinary methods of treatment. No one perhaps who knows Dr. Mohendra, will question any one of these statements. Possessed therefore, of the learning and high character which entitle him to a seat in the University – how can he with any propriety be excluded from the Faculty of Medicine, if the Senate see fit to place him there ?...

16 July 1878

MEMORIAL OF THE BRITISH INDIAN ASSOCIATION AGAINST THE VERNACULAR PRESS ACT

To His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General in Council.

The humble memorial of the British Indian Association,

Respectfully sheweth, – That your memorialists desire to avail themselves of the opportunity, which has been afforded to the public by the introduction into Your Excellency's Council for making laws and regulations of the Bill entitled a Bill to amend Act IX of 1878, to submit a few remarks and

suggestions regarding the Vernacular Press Act for the consideration of your Excellency in Council.

Your memorialists in common with the public at large were not a little taken by surprise, when at a single sitting in March last, a Bill was passed into law, imposing serious restrictions upon the liberty of the Vernacular Press of this country. The Bill was of the highest moment to the cause of Indian literature and progress, and when it was hurried through with such inordinate precipitancy, your memorialists were led to fear that the empire was perhaps threatened with a danger, of which they had no knowledge and of which the calmness of the political atmosphere had afforded no indication...

In conclusion your memorialists pray that your Excellency in Council will be pleased to repeal Act IX of 1878, but in case your Excellency in Council in considerations of State policy should decline to repeal the Act, your Excellency in Council, may be pleased, 1stly to modify it by restricting its scope only to the offence of sedition, by leaving the criminal intimidation of private individual's and public officers for extortion or evil purposes to the operation of the ordinary law of the land, 2ndly, to omit the restrictive clauses relating to oriental literature, and 3rdly, to provide a fair judicial trial for all offences under the Act.

And your memorialists as in duty bound shall ever pray,

JOTENDRO MOHUN TAGORE
Honorary Secretary.

23 September 1878

MAHOMEDAN MARRIAGE REGISTRATION

(Extract from the Resolution on the Report)

The Mahomedan Marriage Registration Act I (B. C.) of 1876 has now been in for more than two and a half years. By the beginning of the year under report, 77 offices had been opened in 14 districts, and by the end of the year there were 103 offices, though the Act was not extended to any fresh dis-

trict during the year, and the only districts in which the Act appears to be at all popular are Chittagong and Rungpore. In these districts, with fourteen and fifteen offices respectively, there were registered during the past year 2,973 and 2,206 ceremonies, or more than half the total for the 14 districts for which the Act was in force. In Backergunge only 211 ceremonies were registered among a Mahomedan population of 1,255,427, and in Furreedpore and Jessore only 105 and 46 ceremonies among populations of 863,053 and 312,974 respectively. From the reports received on the working of the Act in the districts to which it had been extended, it appears to be the general opinion of the district registrar that, unless registration of marriages and divorces is made compulsory the provisions of the Act will only be made use to a very limited extent. The Lieutenant-Governor is not, however, prepared to accept the recommendation of the district registrars. The success attained in two districts, which are in no way specially circumstanced, seems to the Lieutenant-Governor to show that the provisions of the Act are not ill-adapted to meet the requirements of the Mahomedan population of Bengal. Prejudice and ignorance prevail widely amongst the lower classes of the Mahomedan population of the Eastern districts, and, together with the opposition of the local Mollahs interested in the maintenance of the present state of things, militate, no doubt, against the rapid extension of registration, and it may possibly be some years before the provisions of the Act are generally made use of; but the Lieutenant-Governor prefers waiting until such time as the people voluntarily avail themselves of them, to exciting the widespread opposition which he believes would be the result at present of making the Act compulsory.

11 October 1878

DOORGA POOJAH

We do not clearly understand the drift of the *Hindoo Patriot's* articles on the Doorga Poojah. If the object of our contemporay be to shew the popular religion in a ridiculous light, he cannot do better than publish such articles. The most bigoted missionary cannot have a better ally than the writer of these articles, who, we believe, passes as an orthodox Hindoo. We hope the young gentleman will make a better use of his philological attainments than buy Poojah Paddhatis from Burtollah – the Grub Street of Calcutta – and translate them with the help of some tiki-katah Pundit. Does the writer believe that his countrymen really worship a Bilwa tree (Aegle marmelos) – or a Neem tree (Melia Azidarachtah) ? Catholics repel the charge of idolatry with indignation, and August Comte has shown that the charge is groundless. When a Catholic stands before a wooden image of Mary or Jesus and says his prayers, it is not the wood that he worships. The image simply assists in calling forth the devotion of frail mortals. Any pundit with a better knowledge of our religion than is possessed by our tiki-katahs will make a similar defence of Hinduism from the charge of idolatry. In worshipping Doorga, we worship Sakti – the Divine Energy manifested in Natnre.

There is much that is ridiculous in the symbols used, unless we interpret them with the esoteric gloss of the Tantrics. When people worship Lackmi with a bushel of corn, is it the corn that is worshipped ? Or is it the Goddess of that Being who gives us our daily bread ?

That the heterodox *Mirror* should have a better idea of our popular theology than the orthodox Patriot is indeed passing strange. – *Bangalee.*

22 October 1878

S.C.E.R.T., West Bengal Library Calcutta

15 : 12

THIS INDIAN EMPIRE (Editorial)

...There never was a country so completely dominated by personal caprice as this Indian Empire ; and the fact is our greatest curse, and our most urgent danger. There is no continuity in our policy, either foreign or domestic. Every Governor-General, every Lieutenant-Governor, every Chief Commissioner, has his own policy, and passes the greater part of his term of office in undoing what his predecessor has done or left half-completed. Take this Affghan complication for a typical example. Since 1842 it has been, with occasional fluctuations, a cardinal principle in the foreign policy of the Indian Government that the independence of the ruler of Cabul was to be sedulously respected. Suddenly a "specially gifted Viceroy" appears upon the scene, and reverses a policy which has obtained the assent of Lord Canning, Lord Lawrence, Lord Mayo and Lord Northbrook. At once there is an universal demand for information – "Who is this Daniel that has thus come to pass judgment on the policy of his most eminent predecessors ?" The Times' special correspondent steps forward in response and says, – "I have dined many times at Government House, and can therefore speak with authority. You may set your minds at rest, Lord Lytton is 'specially gifted', India is fortunate in possessing him." If it be not "personal" to say this, neither can it be personal to say just the reverse of it. As a matter of fact, here in Calcutta at least, there is hardly an Englishman who does not regard Lord Lytton's foreign policy with doubt and distrust, because Lord Lytton himself is regarded as deficient in certain qualities which a great ruler ought to possess....

23 October 1878

KALIGHAT TEMPLE ESTATE

Resumption of the Kalighat Mehal. – We understand that the Revenue authorities have decreed the resumption of the

old mehal of Kalighat in the suburbs of Calcutta. Its area is above 500 beegahs. The temple is probably the wealthiest in Bengal, not so much from its lands as from the rich offerings laid on its shrine. The work of sacrifice goes on daily on a scale which only Virgil's descriptions fully realise. The place is one of the 52 shrines which, under the authority of a mythological tale, are considered the most sacred in India.

10 December 1878

THE PEOPLE OF INDIA (Editorial)

We have repeatedly stated our conviction that the people of India, as a whole, have gone through greater privation and suffering during the last three years, than they probably ever before experienced under our rule. It is not the very poor only, who are thus suffering. The classes above them are sharing their distress, families supposed to be in good position being secretly obliged to restrict themselves to one meal a day, here in Bengal, where the people have been long accustomed to a comparatively high standard of living. While we now write, we have before us a curious and touching letter, entering in great detail to the unavoidable expenses of a native family of middle-class rank, and showing how cruelly the high prices of everything is telling upon their condition. "What can you expect us to do," exclaims the writer, when prices are like these :–

Ordinary Rice	Rs 3 12 0 per maund
Ordinary Dalls	9 0 0 „ „
Potatoes	6 0 0 „ „
Milk	7 seers per rupee
Flour	3½ annas per seer
Oil	7½ „ „ „
Fish	6 „ „ „
Vegetable	2 „ „ „
Fuel	3 maunds per rupee

This is no extravagant bill-of-fare, and it represents only

the articles of food, to which almost the poorest Bengalee has ever been accustomed. There is no doubt, of course, that the wide-spread failure of the harvest in the last three years, has been the main cause of these high prices ; but the state of the Foreign Exchanges is, we are convinced, largely answerable for the extreme rates that prevail. And is it not mourned that, instead of the Government of India concentrating its attention upon the condition of the people, that we may, if possible, ameliorate it, we can do nothing year after year, for three years on end, but get to Simla to devise devices for carrying on a "spirited foreign policy" at the expense of a wretched Amir whom we have bullied to death, and at last driven as a fugitive into the arms of Russia....

20 January 1879

CALCUTTA UNIVERSITY (Editorial)

...Our complaints against the University of Calcutta, are two. In the first place it has neglected the proper safeguards which alone will prevent a good general education from degenerating into a system of multifarious cramming. An examination in which the greater part of the questions are set from a particular text-book, is the very way to intensify the evil. Yet this apparently, is the only means which the University has been able to devise in order to attain the end which it professes to have in view. Secondly, its desire to promote a good general education has been carried to such lengths that virtually no provision is left for special scholarship. Two Directors of Public Instruction have told us what the result of this mistaken policy has been, and it should be remembered that they are particularly well qualified, both by experience and ability, to pronounce judgement on the matter. Our B. A. candidates, as a rule, 'come out of the course' (to use the elegant diction of the N. W. P. Secretariat) storehouses of ill-digested facts, rather than fairly educated human beings. And if Sir George Couper, and those who think with him, would be at the pains

to look into the matter, they would find that the language to which exception has been taken, is neither an exaggeration nor a satire, but literally accurate account of a state of affairs which calls for immediate action (not Committees, and tall clap-trap) from all who are interested in the advances of higher education in India.

22 January 1879

TRAMWAYS IN CALCUTTA (Editorial)

The attempt made some years ago to introduce tramways into Calcutta, proved such a complete failure that at first sight it may appear doubtful if any endeavour to resuscitate this mode of locomotion here is likely to meet with success. Nevertheless, we are glad to see that the Calcutta Municipality has some thoughts of trying tramways again, and with this view have applied to the Bombay Town Council for as much information on the subject as the latter body can give them. Tramways in Bombay have had a wonderful success ; but this is in great part due to the fact that the lines are in the hands of those who know to work them thoroughly. The promoters and almost all the shareholders in the Bombay Company are Americans ; the Manager is a shrewd citizen of the United States who has made Bombay his home for a number of years and who possesses an intimate acquaintance with the peculiarities of the native character. The proposal to introduce tramways into Bombay was coldly received at first, especially by those who possessed carriages and conveyances of their own. Predictions as to the dreadful aecidents that would surely follow their advent were forthcoming, and it was also asserted by those best acquainted with the natives, that caste prejudices would prevent the latter from riding in the cars. However the "City Fathers" as the Bench of Justices used to be facetiously called, were made to see that tramways were just what Bombay wanted to make it the capital of India, and they agreed to allow Messrs. Kittredge and Co. to introduce them. A Tram-

way Act was passed through the local Legislative Council, and an agreement entered into between the promoters of the Company on the one hand and the Justices on the other, by virtue of which the former were to be allowed to introduce an American system of tramways in Bombay. The natives did not require much persuasion to patronise the cars, but some inducement in the shape of prize tickets of various values was considered necessary by those who managed them. The prospect of winning fifteen or twenty rupees by being the possessor of a fortunate number, stimulated the natives to such a extent, that the cars were filled to overflowing all day and every day, Native speculators in a small way bought up tickets, and induced their friends to do the same. Parsees, Hindoos and Portuguese almost fought with each other for places in the cars ; caste prejudices were forgotten or laid aside for the moment, and a high caste Bunniah had not the least objection to rub shoulders with an individual who had scarcely any to boast of, provided he could secure a seat in one of the cars and a chance in the tramway lottery....

...If tramways are to be introduced here, we would suggest that the power of deciding questions of this nature should be given to the Commissioners, because as representatives of the inhabitants of the city, they are obviously the best fitted to determine where the lines are most needed, and where they can be placed with the least possible amount of inconvenience, to those who are not likely to use them. On the whole we are of opinion that a well-conducted line of tramway has as much chance of succeeding here as in Bombay. It would be an immense boon to the natives as well as to the large population of middle class Europeans and Eurasians which Calcutta possesses. Those to whom annas and pie are matters of some moment, would very quickly discover that a ride in a tramcar is both cheaper and pleasanter than in a dilapidated gharry or a jolting palanquin. To be a success, the tramway should be in the hands of an Independent Company, such as the one in Bombay....

28 February 1879

THE NATIONAL THEATRE

DACCA, AUGUST 11.

..."The National Theatre from Calcutta, with the strongest native company India ever produced, with star actor and actresses," arrived here last week. The company intended a catering for our amusement for a fortnight. Your readers are no doubt aware that a Parsee Theatrical Company entertained us for about a month, and left this only a few days ago with about Rs 10,000 in their pockets. They have been immediately followed by the National Theatre Company, who, being Bengalis, with the additional advantage of having actresses to serve as a bail, are sure to take away an equal sum, if not more. The subject was taken into consideration by the Committee of the Local Students' Association. It was resolved to convene a meeting to determine whether it would be proper to encourage the company. At the instance of the Students' Association, a monster meeting was convened on Thursday last, at which about 1,200 people were present, of whom about 1,000 were students. Among the outsiders I noticed the Subordinate Judge, the Personal Assistant Commissioner, the Deputy Magistrate, the Sub-Deputies, the Moonsiffs, members of the Education Department, a few of the rich zemindars' ministerial offices, etc. The pleaders of the local bar mustered strong. This was an exception for they are always conspicuous by their absence at meetings. Principal Pope was voted to the chair. Eloquent speeches were delivered, the sole object of which was to impress upon the audience the necessity of desisting from going to the theatre, and that for two reasons—1. that the Parsee Company had already taken about Rs 10,000, and it would be imprudent to allow another Company to take an equal sum; and that when there is distress, people dying from starvation, and a famine staring them in the face; 2. that there being an element of indecency, inasmuch as the actresses were women of no good repute, their performances should not be countenanced. The meeting lasted for more

than two hours, and it was resolved that the Students' Association would make their best endeavours to dissuade the whole body of students from attending the theatre. What pleased me most was to see a body of about a thousand students all with one voice entering a strong protest against the encouragement of performances which have an element of indecency in them....

14 August 1879

AN APPEAL TO BENGAL (Correspondence)

To the Editor.

Sir,—Baboo Amrita Lal Mitra breathed his last in January 1879 in Benaras. He was a man of rare qualities. Those who knew him must unhesitatingly admit that India has suffered a great and irreparable loss. Possessed of vest information on various subjects, yet devoid of pride ; uncommonly intelligent yet humble ; charitable yet unostentatious ; full of energy yet inoffensive ; outspoken yet mild ; truthful, yet prudent ; loving liberty, yet tender hearted ; active yet gentle ; just, yet not severe—he had in short all the good qualities that become a great man. The number of such persons in this world is very few. To gain a name and become famous is the principal object of most men in this world ; but that was not the object of his life. He was never ambitious, else he would have very easily become famous. He sought not the praise of men. The aim of life was so noble, that few could attain it. Slowly and silently he worked a great deal for the good of the world. Love for his native land was predominant in his breast. It will be no hyperbole to say of him that he was an ornament of Bengal, a pride to India, and a model character in this world.

Unfortunately for Bengal nothing has been done to preserve the memory of that exemplary character, after his departure from this world. Ungrateful as we are, we have not taken a single step to commemorate the deceased. I therefore humbly beseech that the friends and relations of the late Amrita

Baboo will lose no time in removing this reproach by doing something for the preservation of his memory. I, who was an intimate friend of his, beg to suggest the following as a means of commemorating him. Dig a large tank in a place where want of water is greatly felt, and call it "Amrita Sarobar". The reason why I wish for such a means of preserving his memory is that Amrita Baboo had a chronic disease, owing to which he was advised by his doctors to use as little water as possible. Accordingly he used no ablutions for a long time, but a few years before his death he returned to the use of water. At a later period, he used to say, "why do people erect stone monuments, pillars, and not dig large tanks in memory of the dead, when the latter would be of great service to those who suffer from want of water?" Being a devout friend of his, I cannot but act upto his wishes, I believe that as he was a lover of silence, so this "Amrita Sarobar" will also silently serve poor sufferers. I now beg most respectfully that friends, relatives and sympathisers will kindly help me in performing what I think to be a duty. Donors are solicited to send their donations to Pundit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar, or to the undersigned, by whom they will be thankfully received.

L. N. MAITRA.

78, Dhurrumtollah.
26 November 1879

THE ECLECTIC BRAHMOS (Editorial)

We made some remarks the other day on the Eclectic Brahmos and the pretentions of their Minister. It is the stupendous nature of these pretentions and the apparent disproportion between the all over shadowing personality of the minister, as it meets us in his own and his followers' writings and speeches, and the little that we are able to discern under it, that cause our admiration for what is attractive in the man and in his teaching to be mixed with a misgiving as to the genuine and substantial character of both. For, as we said the

other day, it is not permitted to us to regard Keshub Chunder Sen merely as a man of superior abilities, eloquence and piety, devoting his powers to the social and moral elevation of his countrymen. He asks far more than the acceptance of the truths and precepts which he teaches, because of their inherent worth. He claims the uncritical personal devotion of his followers. That he has his imperfection is, in general terms, readily enough admitted, but as a "saint, prophet and devotee," he has been raised by God, "above the world's criticism," and his followers must very clearly understand that to question or criticise his teaching or conduct, is something not practically distinguishable from impiety. One of the chief blessings for which an Eclectic Brahmo is instructed to pray is, that he may be enabled to accept and honor the "saint, prophet and devotee" for "all that is good in him," and to regard criticism of him, or any attempt to discover and point out his failings as unprofitable, if not impious. We do not think that we exaggerate when we say that no religious teacher of whom we have any knowledge, except the Founder of Christianity himself, has ever put forward so exciting a claim on the devotion of his followers to his own person as does Keshub Chunder Sen. And therefore it is that, as we have already said, there is no other alternative than to regard him as a prophet or an imposter...

26 November 1879

THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT (Editorial)

Our attention has been drawn to the condition of the Postal Department in British Burma, and we propose today to quote some figures and mention some facts in illustration of it, in order to show that much more might be done by the authorities to place this important department on a thoroughly satisfactory footing. The following statistics taken from the Director General's Annual Report for 1877-78, will show that throughout India there has been a considerable increase of postal work :—

COVERS DELIVERED

	1876-77	1877-78
Bengal	28,608,931	28,581,038
Madras	21,919,267	22,415,876
Bombay	22,389,907	24,803,837
N. W. Provinces	18,088,956	19,004,273
Punjab	13,747,464	14,452,071
British Burma	1,005,527	1,611,943
Central Provinces	5,175,517	5,777,219
Sind	3,388,599	3,758,987
Oudh	3,315,974	3,375,024
Rajpootana	2,822,832	3,043,995
Assam	2,078,779	2,001,817
Total	122,541,753	128,826,080

The actual increase thus shown is 6,284,327 covers, which marks very considerable progress indeed. There has at the same time been a corresponding increase of revenue ;–

	1876-77	1877-78
Bengal	1,787,184	1,959,049
Madras	1,156,730	1,240,430
Bombay	1,609,052	1,730,226
N. W. Provinces	1,029,737	1,093,778
Punjab	821,858	869,314
British Burma	164,314	178,108
Central Provinces	275,096	309,962
Sind	151,586	168,425
Oudh	181,844	188,637
Rajpootana	124,027	139,016
Assam	140,508	142,407
Total	7,441,936	8,019,352

These figures show an actual increase of Rs 5,77,416,–a result which holds forth excellent promise for the future...

3 December 1879

RAMMOHUN ROY (Correspondence)

To the Editor.

Sir,—Last Tuesday evening an interesting lecture on the great Hindoo Reformer, Rammohun Roy, was delivered by the Rev. Mr. Macdonald in the hall of the Union Chapel. One should have thought that the mere mention of this truly great reforemer's name would have brought a goodly gathering from the Brahmos alone, but the presence of only one Baboo, whether Brahmo or not, I cannot say, seemed to me a matter of grave significance in the cause of Brahmo advancement. Perhaps admission by payment had something to in keeping away many.

The Reformer's confessions of faith in the Bible, and his active interest in Christian mission, especially in connection with Mr. Duff's labours, and his strong Christian sympathies, which were prominently set forth in the lecture, clearly proved Rammohun Roy a far different leader from Keshub Chunder Sen.

What influence of the departed Reformer's movement may still linger among the Brahmos, remains to be seen on his centenary, which the lecturer dated as 1880.

As a proper study for Brahmos, the lecture might be repeated in the Town Hall, if the able lecturer could make it convenient to do so.

OVER BRIDGE

4 December 1879

THE LATE BABOO AMRITA LAL MITRA

(Correspondence)

To the Editor.

Sir,—Last week letters with editorial notes thereupon, appeared in some papers, asking for subscriptions to perpetuate the memory of the late Baboo Amrita Lal Mitra. But Bengal before subscribing for another memorial, should remember that there was one Michael Madhu Suddun Datta, who died unlamented and unnoticed in a hospital. It was he who first

introduced blank verse in vernacular poetry and gave an impetus to that language. His "Megh Nad" may be compared without any charge of exaggeration to Milton's Paradise Lost, and Homer's Odyssey and Illiad. The several passages of his lyrical poems have become our household words and idioms. The Bengalee language would have remained barren and not its latent capacity been developed by this luminary. But the merits and claims of such worthies have been ignored, and the nation does not scruple to contribute a princely donation for the memorial of Sanskrit sloka-makers, and of men who had been honoured by the Government. It is generally found that poets suffer persecution in their life time, but when they are dead, their countrymen appreciate their works and repent their folly. Byron, Keats, Shelley and Chatterton, who once suffered social oppression are now remembered with feelings of gratitude and devotion. Poor Ramgopal Ghose in now remembered no more. It was he who took a leading part in the Burning Ghat question, and floored three leading English barristers on the Canning statue question. He was called the Indian Demosthenes. I do not protest against the proposal of the memorial of Baboo Amrita Lal Mitra. I merely remind my countrymen of the duties of which remain yet unfulfilled. What a dire future awaits a nation who, having accepted means and power, are slow in testifying their gratitude by action. Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for affording me a space in your impartial and much esteemed journal.

MITTRA.

4 December 1879

THE INDIAN ASSOCIATION (Editorial)

The Indian Association is not without either talent or ambition, and we are very glad to learn from its organ, the *Bengalee*, that it is now undertaking a task which, if executed with real intelligence, cannot but be of great interest and importance. It is about to draft a scheme of representative

Government for India. This will be regarded by many as a mad and futile enterprise. We do not so regard it. It would indeed be idle to hope that any scheme which the Indian Association may formulate will be fit for chance of being adopted promptly, no matter how splendid a product of political genius it were. But there is no doubt that the time is fast approaching, if it is not already here, when the problem of how to popularise to some extent the Government of this empire must come up for solution. It is easy to pooh-pooh every proposal which contemplate the formation of reprsentative or independent Consultative bodies for India, but it is equally easy to see that – to put it in the most general way – unless something can be done soon to infuse an element of popularity into our Indian Government, the Government will by-and-by become intolerable and must ultimately fall amidst the shock of revolution. The necessity of which we speak is very generally admitted, so long as we keep to general terms. There are few who do not see and admit that the Government might be made better, and that the real interests of the country would be more carefully attended to, if a really influential popular element could safely be introduced into the Government. It had long been accepted as a truism that so long as India is in the hands of a foreign power, it must be governed despotically. But the truism is now being called in question. The Government must doubtless remain a potential despotism, that is, it must retain in its hands power sufficient to enable it, in case of necessity arising from rebellion or any other source of Imperial danger, to assume despotic power. But a potential despotism in the hands of Englishmen may and ought to be, what an indigenous despotism never can be – the judicious foster-parent of popular liberties. This is what we meant by a paternal Government in the true sense. It ought to train the people to the use of the privileges of free citizens, and to be ever ready to accord them such privileges as soon as there is a reasonable and safe prospect that they will use them on the whole not unwisely. Unfortunately the

temper of the Government has not of late inclined it to foster liberty, but rather to restrict it unnecessarily. And this accession of imperiousness has manifested itself just at the stage when a very different temper might be beneficially displayed. The consequence is that there are already indications of the beginning of a struggle between a national consciousness of some fitness for the exercise of free citizenship, and a determination not to recognise it. But while this determination is characteristic of the present Government it is not we trust, likely to be permanent, and as the condition of India is now earnestly studied by the ablest and most liberal class of Englishmen, we may look for a movement to set in ere long in favour of gradually popularising the Government of India....

15 December 1879

RAM MOHUN ROY (Correspondence)

To the Editor.

Sir,—Baboo R. D. Haldar, late scholar of the University College, London, has just published a pamphlet on "The Life and Labours of Ram Mohun Roy". Being a lecture delivered by Mr. William Adam (Commissioner of Vernacular Education, Bengal under the administration of Lord William Bentinck) in Boston U. S. With your kind permission, I will quote a few passages from his excellent lecture. On the education of the great reformer, the lecturer remarks :—"Educated under such personal, domestic, and social influences, Ram Mohun Roy's powerful mind burst asunder the bonds of pride and prejudice, interest and ambition, and early perceiving the withering and degrading effects of idolatry, he sought, with a bold, but skilful hand to overthrow the spiritual tyranny of which his countrymen are the victims." He thus speaks of some of Ram Mohun Roy's great acts : "Of the Vedas, the most sacred books of the Hindus, he republished in the original text, and with vernacular translations and comments, several of those portions

most remarkable for the elevation, purity and devotional character of their contents, and constituting the source from which the ancient and pure form of Hindooism draws its proofs and authorities. He republished also several of the Works of Sankaracharya, an ancient and celebrated Hindoo reformer, besides several other ancient Hindoo writings, tending to promote the pure worship of God, and to shake Brahmanical authority. He formed the small but intelligent body of Hindoos, who gradually started around him into a religious society, which held regular meetings for worship, at which he himself often presided and for which he composed a collection of devotional hymns, as well as a series of discourses or sermons that were delivered by the learned assistants in attendance." With reference to the practise of Suttee, the lecturer said : "When Ram Mohun Roy's mind was fully opened to a perception of the evils of idolatry, one of the most horrible and appaling forms of the superstitions prevailing among his countrymen was the burning of widows on the funeral piles of their deceased husbands. This practise early arrested his attention, excited his compassion, his indignation, and his shame and called forth his most anxious and unwearied exertions for its abolition." In conclusion, the lecturer pays the following tribute to the patriotism of the reformer : — "The love of freedom so strikingly characteristic of the man, so strikingly uncharacteristic of the abject people, the natives of Bengal, of whom he was one, was not a wild irregular, violent and destructive impulse. It was a rational conviction springing from his belief in the noble purposes which a well-regulated and self-restraind liberty is capable of conferring on the individual and on the society." The editor, permit me to add, has given numerous explanatory foot-notes and some addenda. The lecturer in one place remarks that Ram Mohun Roy "established and conducted two native newspapers — one in Persian and the other in Bengali." The editor will be much obliged if any of your readers can tell him the name of the Persian newspaper. I may conclude by saying that the lecture

has special significance attached to it, as shewing the light in which the great Indian Reformer was represented in a foreign country like America.

S. H.

Ranchee, January 2nd, 1880

5 January 1880

THEFT OF AN IDOL

The Hindoo community of Calcutta, more especially those residing in Baugh Bazaar, will learn with surprise of the theft of an idol known by the name of Muddun Mohun, on Saturday last. As the history of this idol may interest some of our readers, we subjoin the following : – "Muddun Mohun" which is a century and a half old, was originally the property of the Rajah of Bistopore, who about 125 years ago, being in want of money, pledged it with one Gocool Mohun Mitter for Rs 25,000. Some time after the Rajah in question being in need of more money asked for and obtained a further sum of Rs 25,000. Later on the Rajah wanting to redeem the idol, Baboo Gocool Mohun Mitter refused to part with it, offering him another, and a gold one in its place. The Rajah declined this offer and recourse was had to law. By an arrangement ultimately arrived at Rs 50,000 more was paid to the Rajah in full of all demands, and the idol became the property of Gocool, on whose death it reverted to Baboo Jodoonauth Mitter, the present owner. This Baboo kept the idol in his Thacoor Barree, permitting worshipers access to it. Another idol, named Radica, was shortly after introduced into the house and united to Muddun Mohun. This happy pair possessed a zemindari and a garden which jointly yielded Rs 5,100 annually and was spent over their decorations and other requirements. A Brahmin of the Ooryiah caste named Mahadeb (Pandah) was retained to perform the ceremonies, and to generally look after them. This man's cupidity led him last Sunday, to conceal himself in the house and to clandestinely remove "Muddun

Mohun" and bury "Radica pretem" in a vacant house adjoining. While going along the road with his booty, Mahadeb, happened unfortunately to fall under the observation of a policeman, who arrested him on suspicion and took him to the local thannah where the discovery was made. He now awaits his trial.

6 January 1880

A BRIDAL PROCESSION

The eldest son of Rajah Jotendro Mohun Tagore, C. I. E., and a nephew of Rajah Sourindra Mohun Tagore, C. S. I. was married on Saturday last to the daughter of an opulent zemindar of Dacca. The bridal procession wended its way through Upper Chitpore-road and Pathooria Ghaut-street, the roads being beautifully illuminated with electric lights. bunting etc. The ceremonies generally observed at Hindoo marriages, were in a great measure dispensed with. The elite of European and native society, including His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, were present. The uncle of the bridegroom dispensed large sums of money, food and clothes to charitable institution and the poor, while the "learned doctor of music" engaged the services of upwards of fifty professional singers who were substantially remunerated as an encouragement to the noble cause of music. An immense fortune has been settled upon the youthful couple, by the parents of the contracting parties.

2 February 1880

BENGALEES IN THE N. W. P. (Correspondence)

To the Editor,

Sir, I quote the following paragraph from *Native Opinion*, and hope that it will find a space in your columns :—"It is stated by our contemporary the *Indian Mirror*, that 'secret and confidential instructions' have been issued by the Government of Sir George Couper to the heads of several departments

'not to bestow vacant posts at their disposal upon Bengalees.' This is not the first time that the exclusion of Bengalees from service in the North-West have been attempted. The Bengalees have been looked upon with displeasure since Sir John Strachey was Lieutenant-Governor of that Province. But this time the order issued by Sir George Couper seems to be almost peremptory. The two provinces are conterminous, and any one who has seen the North-West knows from experience that many a Bengal family has made it their home. When such is the case it is quite natural that they should expect to have free entrance into the public service. We admit the principle that the people of a province have a stronger right to Government employment than people from a neighbouring province, but I think that the principle of capability and fitness deserves a prior consideration. There should be a fair field for everybody. But this is not the way in which Sir George Couper is endeavouring to oust the Bengalees from the province. While he has made Urdu and Persian a *sine qua non* for employment in any office to Bengalees, he has absolved Europeans and Eurasians from the necessity of studying the language. Is this fair ? But, perhaps blood is a thorough cure in their case. But it is no statesmanship that creates hostility or ill-feeling between different sections of Her Majesty's Indian subjects, nor can a Government make itself loved by the use of such unfair means."

DASARATHI BANERJEE

Calcutta March 28th, 1880.

30 March 1880

STEAMSHIPS SUPPLANTING SAILING VESSELS

A Parliamentary paper issued at the end of last month shows how rapidly steamships are now supplanting sailing vessels. In 1869 the total tonnage of sailing vessels belonging to the United Kingdom was 4,677,275 tons, while in 1879 it had sunk to 3,918,676 tons, a decrease of 785,599 tons, or nearly

17 per cent. On the other hand the total tonnage of the steam vessels employed in 1878 was 1,039,969 which in 1879 had risen to 2,331,157, a growth of 1,291,188 tons, or more than 124 per cent. In 1869 the total number of British vessels both sailing and steam, was 21,881 while in 1879 it had fallen to 20,029. Keeping in view the concurrent increase of aggregate tonnage, it is thus clear that there has been a gradual increase in the size of the vessels employed and one result of this has been an economy of labour. Thus while the tonnage of steam-vessels was, as we have seen, more than doubled between 1870 and 1879 the total of the men and boys employed rose only from 58,703 to 78,731, or about 34 per cent.

The salary of the new Governor of Bombay will be one lakh and twenty thousand rupees instead of one lakh and twenty-eight thousand, which his predecessor enjoyed. The difference between the obsolete sicca rupee and the ordinary coin will be saved to the country. Future Members of Council will have to put up with Rs 61,000 per annum instead of Rs 64,000. The successors of the present Judges of the High Court will have their salaries slightly docked in the same proportion.

24 April 1880

BESTOWING EMPTY HONOURS (Editorial)

Is there no other way of rewarding faithful or meritorious services than by bestowing empty honours ? Scarcely a Gazette appears without an intimation that the Viceroy has been pleased to bestow the decoration of so and so, on the zemindar of Bunderabad, on account of the public spirit he has shown in spending so many thousands of rupees in making a pucka road between two important stations, or in bridging a stream. Then we hear of similar honours being conferred because of the recipient's general loyalty. This sort of thing is not confined to natives. After every petty engagement at the front we find the showers of honour descending on the heads of those officers

engaged, and we are frequently at a loss to understand why such honours should be considered necessary. Those officers have doubtless done their duty well, but we may ask what else was expected of them, and for what else they are employed and paid ? We do not desire to detract from the need of praise due for acts of bravery and daring ; but we fail to see why any man should be specially rewarded and honoured for doing mere that duty for which his services were originally entertained. But we are wandering from our subject. The Government has lately been flooding the country with empty honours bestowed on influential natives, the honours usually consisting of Nawabships, Bahadoorships, C. I. E.'s, C. S. I.'s and such like, and it is a little surprising that the recipients should place the slightest value on them. When an honorary title becomes too common it is a distinction not to possess it, and a too free distribution cannot fail to lead to a depreciation of its value. During the Empire of the late Emperor of the French, the Legion of Honour feel into disrepute in this way. We trust, now our Imperialistic regime is at an end, that those honours will be more sparingly bestowed. We do not mean more grudgingly, but with more discretion. One of the leading native papers has recently been writing on this subject, and sarcastically remarks, "How many Rajahs were there in India before the advent of the English-Rajahs. Roy Bahadoors, Nababs, C. S. I.'s C. I. E.'s, and other men of titles ? But now titled men are as numerous as grogshops ; they are to be found by every turn."

13 July 1880

WHIPPINGS IN JAILS (Editorial)

We regret to notice that the lashes used in our jails so frequently, and that under the present management the number of whippings given each year increases steadily. Perhaps the medical men in charge of jails would produce a better effect if they gave their prisoners more rice and less of the cane. The number of flogging cases last year, we learn from the resolution

on the annual report, was 6,232, or nearly twice the number in 1878, more than twice the number in 1877, and more than three times the number in 1876. Whippings are generally inflicted for short work, which may often be the result of weakness, bad health or want of skill. The Bengal Government has suddenly opened its eyes to the alarming increase in the use of the power to flog which has been entrusted to jail superintendents and extended by them beyond all reasonable limit. Perhaps it would have been as well if an evil which has been growing for years had been noticed by the Lieutenant-Governor before the attention of Parliament was drewn to the subject, and before a Ministry which is predisposed against the cat-o'-nine-tails succeeded to power. It was once supposed that jails might be so managed as to have a reformatory influence. The plan now seems to be that of the old woman, who embarrassed by a large family, gave her children some broth without any bread, whipped them all round, and sent them to bed.

7 August 1880

MAHOMEDAN EDUCATION (Editorial)

We have read with interest and satisfaction a pamphlet on Mahomedan education by Syud Amir Hossein, and we recommend its suggestions to the serious consideration of the Mahomedan community and of the educational authorities. For some years now there have been indications that the conservatism – or whatever the feeling is – that has kept the Mahomedans of Bengal alook from the race for high education, is being broken down and is rapidly giving way to an eager desire to compete with their Hindoo fellow countrymen in the sphere of education and in the public service. But as yet little progress has been made. Under Lord Mayo and Sir George Campbell a movement for the improvement of the higher education of Mussulmans was begun, and has not been altogether fruitless ; but neither has it been as successful as might have

been hoped. The various Madrassahs – At Calcutta, Hooghly, Dacca, Chittagong and Rajshahye – have not produced results with which the community ought to be satisfied. In fact, it is pretty clearly shown in Syud Amir Hossein's pamphlet that the Madrassahs at Hooghly, Chittagong, and Rajshahye are more or less complete failures. Even in the Calcutta Madrassah the results are not entirely satisfactory, and the want of a high education in English is becoming greatly felt by the students of the Arabic department. Their educational deficiencies have prevented the employment in the public service of Mussulmans, in anything like the proportion which their population bears to that of the Hindoos. It appears from the pamphlet before us that, whereas, at the last census the proportion of Mahomedans to the whole population of Bengal was 31½ per cent., there is but one Mussulman to every ten Hindoos in the upper ranks of the uncovenanted service....

14 August 1880

THE INDIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS (Editorial)

The Indian University system is still in its infancy, yet few of the institutions of the British Government have taken a firmer hold of the country, or exerted a greater influence. The Universities are only examining bodies, but by prescribing the courses of study and determining the standards of examination, they practically control the schools and affiliated colleges, which do the work of instruction. The number of candidates from year to year has increased with marvellous rapidity; so much so, that to take only the Entrance and First Arts examinations of the Calcutta University, instead of 244 who presented themselves at the former in 1857, we now find upwards of 2700 and instead of 163 who attended that latter in 1861 there are upwards of 1,000. The influence of these remarkable facts on the social and political development of India can hardly be over-estimated, and yet the number quoted represent but a fraction of those who come under the influence of the Univer-

sity. Multitudes besides these are imbibing principles and forming habits of thought, that must in the end, entirely alter the tone and character of society. This goes far towards an explanation, if not a justification, of the remarkable tenacity with which Government adheres to its tradition all policy of controlling the University through the official element in the Senate and Syndicate. The circumstances of the country must for a long time to come make absolutely utopian such an agitation as arose last May on Lord Ripon's reply to a deputation advocating a return to the policy laid down in the Education Despatch of 1854, in the matter of withdrawing from direct participation in higher education. Government cannot afford to relax its hold of what is probably the greatest social force in the country, and perhaps the wiser course for it would be boldly to disavow for the present a policy which it has found impractical. It must go on extending its influence in the direction of both primary and higher education, until the people are prepared to help themselves, as in Europe ; but that day is, we fear, a long way off....

30 September 1880

LIQUORS IN THE SANTHAL PERGUNNAHS (Editorial)

When the Government of Bengal instanced the case of the Sonthal Pergunnahs as showing that increased consumption of intoxicating liquors might be due to causes other than the extension of the out-still system, it must have been aware that there were other districts inhabited by Sonthals in which that system has been introduced and where its effects may be studied. In the enquiry which is being made into the subject, the Government will no doubt find some useful knowledge from an investigation into the working of the out-still system among the Sonthali population of Chota Nagpore. Some light is cast on the subject by the article, mentioned by us yesterday, contributed to the Indian Evangelical Review by Mr. Campbell of Pachamba. Few men know the Sonthals better than Mr.

Campbell, who has worked many years among them, and is perfectly familiar with their language, character and social usages. While his statements of facts may be relied on, the shrewd common sense that distinguishes him makes his opinion on such questions as we are now discussing of real value. In the hope that what he has to say may, through our columns reach many who do not see the Review, we shall not hesitate to quote freely from the article.

It may be interesting to state at the outset that with the Sonthals getting drunk is a religious excercise, and they perform it with great regularity and zeal. It was one of their great spirits, called Marang Buru, who taught their progenitors how to brew the beer which they so love to quaff. When it was made they were instructed to pour a libation to the god, making use of the following invocation – "All hail, Marang Buru ! Behold ! I have made this beer. Behold ! in its name I pour out a libation before thee. May it retain its sweetness and potency. Let not any widow, which envy or hatred be mingled with it. Let whoever drinks of it become dead drunk." So far, therefore, from drunkenness being regarded as a crime, or involving social degradation, Mr. Campbell assures us that the chiefs and village headmen, as becomes their influential position are the most distinguished drunkards, and set a dead-drunk example before the community in a way that must be very gratifying to the great Marang Buru. As we mentioned in our former article, Government have thought it expedient to prohibit the Sonthals, as the use of the beer is an essential feature of their social and religious usages. Each family can manufacture at a time two seers, but to have anything beyond that quantity in the house at one time is an infringment of the law – an infringement however, which takes place regularly on such occasions as marriages and harvest festivals. At many marriage feasts, says Mr. Campbell, three, four or ten times the permitted quantity is made and consumed. "It may be safely asserted that if any house in which a marriage is to take place, were searched the evening previous to the day

fixed for its celebrations, two seers would bear a very small proportion to the quantity which would be forthcoming. The guests at a marriage often number as many as thirty or forty men. How far would two seers of liquor go among them, many of them being hard-drinkers ?" At the harvest festival the beer flows even more freely than at marriage. Drunkenness and debauchery are the Sonthali expressions of thanksgiving. We may here digress for a moment to remark how these facts support our suggestion that the increased consumption of excisable liquor in the Sonthal Pergunnahs by no means necessarily implies that the Sonthalis in the Pergunnahs drank more than usual last year, but is more likely to be the result of a stricter enforcement of the two seers limit, for it is clear that, with their confirmed habits of copious libation, if the Sonthals can only brew two seers at a time for themselves, they will purchase largely of the liquor made at the distilleries....

14 October 1880

DRUNKENNESS AMONG THE SANTHALS

(Correspondence)

To the Editor.

Sir, – It is gratifying to observe that from your mofussil issues of the 7th, 13th and 14th instant, that you have taken up the liquor question, and are endeavouring to impress upon Government its duty to restrict as much as possible, rather than further the consumption of ardent spirits ; for it indeed appears to be a fact that drunkenness is increasing if not throughout, at least in many part of Bengal.

That the out-still, in a higher degree than the distillery system, tends to spread intemperance, seems probable from the public-house keeper under the former has a more powerful incentive to push sales than under the latter, inasmuch as the whole gain will go into his own pocket after having sold the necessary quantum to cover cost of license, whilst under the

distillery system he must share with Government the profit on every bottle he sells. The statements made by Mr. Campbell of the Pachamba Mission in the Indian Evangelical Review, and quoted by you, also appear to favour this theory.

There are however a few points in Mr. Campbell's article which are misleading, and which, in some instances, have led you to draw conclusions from, and draw theories on, erroneous premises. In the first place, it would appear from his general expression, "the Santhals" that he speaks of the whole tribe, the bulk of which resides within the Santhal Pergunnahs : in the second place, the ordinary reader would be led to infer that the out-still system is prevalent among them as a race ; in the third place, that their home brewing is universally restricted to two seers per house ; and in the fourth place, that the Santhals as a people are habitual inebriates and get "dead drunk" religiously.

Whilst you have been fortunate to discover from other sources the erroneousness of point number two – that, in fact, the out-still system has not been extended to the Santhal Pergunnahs – you have been less favoured as regards the other three. I fear your Scotch caution has forsaken you this once (owing probably to the pressure of your editorial duties), so that you have lost sight of the Aristotelian injuction first to be sure of your facts before founcing theories on them. This omission, however. may well be excused in an editor when that august body which constituted the Royal Society in Charles the II's time, could also be guilty of it, on the occasion of the King's asking them to explain the phenomenon why a live fish thrown into a basin of water does not increase the weight thereof, whereas a dead on does. and on account of which much angry discussion, caused by the contradictory hypotheses propounded to account for the curious fact, ensued, until at last, one of the number ventured to question the truth for their premises, which resulted in showing all their theories to be superfluous.

Now as to the real facts of the case. Regarding the first

point. the root of the other misleading statements. Mr. Campbell's general expression, "the Santhals" should be restricted to the scattered hamlets in ahe Pachamba sub-division, to which his experience of them has been confined, and which lies outside the Santhal Pergunnahs – and not applied to Santhalistan itself, of which he has no personal knowledge. Respecting the third point, the privilege of manufacturing rice-beer in the pergunnahs is not limited to two seers at a time per family, as the inhabitants may drew *ad libitum*, and consequently no more vigilant supervision, such as you suppose could constrain them to the consumption of distilled spirits. And as to the fourth point. the general debauchery, attributed to the Santhals at present, as well as the alleged increased consumption of liquor by them, are, to my certain, personal and intimate knowledge, imaginary as far as the southern half of Santhalistan at least is concerned.

On the contrary, during the last few years drunkenness has been steadily and markedly on the decrease. This is undoubtedly in a large measure owing to the rapid progress of Christianity amongst this people within the Pergunnahs ; for not only do the converts with very rare exceptions, wholly abstain from strong drink, but their example reacts on the heathen, among whom the whole moral tone has been visibly raised. Yet Government has also had its share in bringing about this most desirable result.

Some years ago, when we represented matters to the Bengal Government about the then prevalent debauchery to which the Santhals were addicted, we found a willing ear ; all shops in our own talook, Nanakar, were closed, and an official, acting under orders, had a large meeting with the Chiefs in another part of the district, at which I was invited to assist, on which occasion the chiefs of the Government Khas Mehals were clearly given to understand that habitual drunkenness would involve the loss of their office, whilst the chiefs in zemindari lands were induced to join the others in drawing up and signing an agreement to the effect, that not only would they them-

selves be temperate, but would also lend the weight of their influence to discourage drunkenness among their ryots. That officer lost no time in seeing that this document did not remain a dead letter.

In all the above I have no wish to be understood to imply that matters are now all that could be desired ; what I wish to affirm is, that there has been decided progress, and Government, now that the Santhal land settlement is effected, which, with all its imperfections, is an undoubted boon to the people, and has set their minds at rest, is in a most favourable position to prosecute still further its restrictive measures towards the promotion of sobriety among them.

Apologising for the length of this communication,

L. O. SKREFSRUD

Indian Home Mission to the Santhals.
Ebenzer Station, Santhal Missian ;
Rampore Haut, Oct. 16th, 1880.

Note. – We notice this letter in our editorial columns. – Ed. S.

21 October 1880

Editorial

The Rev. Mr. Skrefsrud's letter on drunkenness among the Santhals is a welcome contribution to our knowledge of the subject, coming as it does from a man who probably knows as much about the Santhals as any man living. But the letter has an additional interest for us, inasmuch as it shows in a very striking way how very difficult, how almost impossible it is to get at perfectly accurate knowledge of any subject connected with the condition of the people of this country. For it will be observed that while Mr. Skrefsrud sets us right on at least one point regarding which Mr, Campbell's article led us into a mistake, he shakes our confidence in other sources of knowledge also by apparently contradicting, and in very emphatic language, a statement made officially by the Government of Bengal....

21 October 1880

THE BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA

The following letter was published recently in the *Times :*

Sir,-May I appeal through the Times to the public in the following matter ? One hundred and twenty-four years ago, 122 English people out of a total of 145 perished owing to imprisonment for a single night in a room 18 ft. square, since known to history as the Black Hole of Calcutta. Of this tragedy no local record exists. There was one formely, but in 1819, the tablet erected by Mr. Holwell, one of the survivors, was injured by lightning, and then, if documents are to be trusted, removed by order of Lord Hastings, the Governor-General for fear that its exhibition by recalling a humiliating disaster, might injure British prestige in India. With however, a graceful shrine and tender inscription perpetuating the memory of a still more terrible slaughter at Cawnpore, any feeling of this sort would now be absurd even if it was not always so and the present time happens to offer a favourable opportunity for restoring Mr. Holwell's tablet, or for erecting something similar. Decent demolitions have revealed part of a verandeh, or arcading, belonging to the old fort ; so that if time be not lost, an inscription may be placed on walls which were closely connected with the Black Hole, and not far from its exact locality. Dr. Busteed, Assay Master of the Calcutta Mint, who has interested himself in identifying exactly spots of historical interest in and about Calcutta, has asked me to move in this matter. I therefore beg to say that if those who are interested in Anglo-Indian history – and who in these days is not ? – wish to aid by small sums of money, I shall be happy to receive them through Messrs. Grindlay and Co. of 55 Parliament-street, and to remit them to Dr. Busteed, who may be confidently trusted to do all that is wanted. Yours obediently, C. H. Luard Major, Royal Engineers, Littlehampton, September, 6.

21 October 1880

URDU AND HINDI (Editorial)

The controversy about the relative merit of Urdu and Hindi, which has lately been occupying so much space in the Indian press, is one of those academic disputations which invariably find means to occur whenever there is nothing important to engage the attention of the public. A few pundits and school-masters have undertaken to impress the necessity of a literary revolution upon the country at large. The efforts may be compared to those of the Phonetic Society in recasting the English language, and deserve the same degree of appreciation. They may be welcomed as a sign of superabundant life and energy in the fields of literature, though the life be artificial and the energy misdirected. As for practical results, it would be vain to expect any, seeing that the choice of languages does not depend upon scholastic sentiment, but upon the historical conditions and actual necessities of the people. These are the grand tests and they cannot fail to receive due attention from the Government ; if only for the sake of expedition and convenience in carrying on Government work. The great reform wrought by Lord William Bentinck was the first and most signal example of this, when the official language of India was changed at once stroke from Persian to the vernacular dialects of the country. The change was certainly based upon no reason of mere sentiment, but on the obvious unfitness of Persian for the office assigned to it, or, rather, retained by it after it had passed into the stage of superannuation. In early days of Mahomedan rule, Persian was the one common language in which Pathan, Turk, Indianised Arab and educated Hindu could hold intelligent conversation. For a Mussalman governing race, with their bigotry, their pride, and their contemptuous ignorance, the use of Persian as the official language was an absolute necessity ; and so long as their rule flourished, the habit thus acquired was encouraged by the preferance naturally felt for a polished and flexible language, which served as a reminder and a link between their descen-

dants in India and the countries whence the original stock had come. The British Government succeeding to this state of things was obliged to make use of such official instruments as lay ready to its hands. The beginnings of an empire do not offer a favourable occasion for recasting the whole official staff, and remodelling all official records. As time wore on, however, it became evident that the circumstances which prompted and sustained the use of Persian had ceased to exist. While Emperors of Delhi and Kings of Oudh were publishing poetical compositions in Urdu, it was obviously impossible to believe that the cutchery amlah could find any difficulty in adopting that language for their official writings. If any doubt existed, it could be moved in a moment by a reference to the style of Persian then prevalent. The language had sunk into something little better than the jargon which in days before reform, used to be known as law-Latin. Just as the old pleaders used to write *futavit et abcariavit* for "stole and carried away" so the amlah of fifty years ago used to employ a legal Persian full of Hindi words and saturated with Hindi idioms. Year by year it was growing more difficult to preserve any semblance of purity ; and when the change at length was made, the official and the non-official public were equally relieved....

25 October 1880

THE SANTHALS (Editorial)

Mr. Skrefsrud has been good enough to respond to our appeal to him for information on the subject of the consumption of liquor in Santhal Pergunnahs. It will be remembered that we pointed out what looked like a contradiction between his assertion that drunkenness was showing a steady and marked decrease among the Santhals and the official statement that the comsumption of liquor in these Pergunnahs was increasing. He now states distinctly what was not quite so clear in his former letter, that he was speaking of the southern half

of the Pergunnahs only ; but he is of opinion that a like improvement has also taken place in the north, and therefore rejects the hypothesis that a decrease of consumption in the one part is more than counterbalanced by an increase in the other. He also, speaking from his own observation and from knowledge gained from the Santhals themselves, refuses to believe that they are forsaking their home-brewed beverage for the country spirit manufactured at the distilleries. And from knowledge similarly obtained he concludes that the true explanation is one which we ourselves suggested as possible – namely, that while the Santhals are becoming more sober, the Bengalis in the Pergunnahs, who are the consumers of country spirits, are becoming more intemperate. "Whilst formerly, in our extensive travels, we only met with the lowest grades of Bengalis indulging in liquor, it is now no uncommon thing to see all classes among them, the Brahmin not excepted, buying large quantities of country spirit for private consumption." Mr. Skrefsrud is a thoroughly reliable observer, and we fear there is little ground for hoping that he may be mistaken in this instance....

26 October 1880

THE SANTHAL LAND SETTLEMENT (Correspondence)

To the Editor.

Sir, – As promised in my 1st letter I now proceed to the second point on which you desired further information, namely, the nature and operations of the Santhal land settlement.

In order the better to enable you and your readers to form a correct opinion on the whole matter, it will be needful to promise a few remarks on some of the leading characteristics of the race, and their more recent history. They are a semi-savage people whose jungly notions of liberty make it extremely irksome to submit to any other restraint and guidance than that of their own community and institutions, the latter of

which are eminently republican. Being remarkably deficient in the reasoning faculty, they are unable to see the justice of sharing the profits to any appreciable extent, if at all, of the forests they themselves have reclaimed, with any one else; hence anything like even a low rent, according to Bengali notions is exceedingly obnoxious. not to say intolerable to their feelings of equity, and they will rather relinquish their holdings and emigrate to fresh jungles, if such are attainable. than meet the zemindar half-way,—to which of course, the latter offers no obstacles, as he can to greater advantage readily settle with Bengali ryots not that his waste land has been cleared. It is a notorious fact that the Santhals have been a wandering race, as they themselves boast, ever since the days of Adam, and I could enumerate at least a score of places where they pride themselves on having been the pioneers of civilization.

It is not more than 80 odd years since they came to the Pergunnahs, and only 53 years since our own Talook Nankar was cleared. During this time they have managed successfully to go through one real insurrection in 1855 which secured them large concessions from Government, when Mr. Yule was Commissioner of Bhagulpore, and the Pergunnahs were made into a non-regulation district; and in 1871-73 (before the present settlement) they almost effected another outbreak, which has resulted in still greater privileges, to which the Bengali ryot is an utter stranger.

It must not, however, be supposed that they have had no grievance to account for this turbulent spirit. They have had real and substantial cause for complaint, and as they are clannish in the highest degree, and possess no individuality besides being very ignorant, they have lacked both the desire and capacity to get those grievances redressed individually in the courts of law, and consequently, when the burden became too heavy, they saw no other alternative than making themselves collectively troublesome to Government, marching behind their leaders and with their drums in the van, in which

attitude they have exhibited real bravery, and are capable, as I heard from an officer who was in the insurrection, of standing at bay, and dying to a man.

The grievances above alluded to, and which culminated in the well-known Santhal rebellion, may be briefly stated to have been the impressed labour and illegal cesses of the zemindars – which were legion in number and crushing in extent – and the usurious and outrageous exactions of the money-lenders which were often carried to such a pass that the Santhals were thereby either sold out of house and home, or subjected to a slavery of the good old American orthodox type.

Whilst for the oppression of the landholders the Santhals may not be responsible, they cannot be held equally guiltless of all complicity in the miseries entailed by the mahajans, having in a great measure brought them, on themselves by their own irregular habits and imrprovidence. It is a hereditary idiosyncracy with the Santhal to do nought towards supporting himself and family until actually driven to it by the pangs of hunger, when he can and will work like a horse, while he will spend all his time in hunting and visiting his friends so long as there is a seer of rice left in the house, after the consumption of which he will first recklessly exhaust his credit with every one who can be induced to lend him – utterly regardless of the reckoning day – before he will betake himself to the uncongenial task towards which his long course of self-indulgence has generated so strong a repugnance.

The causes of the disturbance in 1871-73 were of a similar nature, although of a less pronounced degree. It was not so much the ostensible rent claimed by the zemindars which pressed heavily on the people, as the impressed labour, illegal cesses and uncertainty of tenure ; and as for the mahajans, they had gradually reverted to their former practices of doubtful accounts and iniquitous rates of interest. To adduce only one instance of many that came under my cognisance – a Santhal who had borrowed Rs 10 at 37½ per cent. per annum, and during five years had paid the moderate amount of Rs

103 on account, was informed at the end of that period that he still owed a small balance of Rs 60 !

We missionaries, in our constant intimate relations with the people, could not only help seeing much of all this, and, taking naturally, a deep interest in their welfare, and at the same time observing the growing discontent among them, we acceded to their repeated solicitations to represent matters to Government, and took seven chiefs down with us to Calcutta, where we had a personal interview with Sir George Campbell, the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal. Among other documents we showed him receipts of one zemindar for an illegal cess – only one among many – of six annas on each rupee of the village rental, which he had levied on the plea of his son's marriage, and which receipts he had been incautious enough to grant.

His Honor ordered a searching investigation to be made into the alleged Santhal grievances, during the progress of which I was written to by the local authorities and requested to make the fact of the enquiry known, and to acquaint them with any cases of hardship of which I might be personally aware. The result of this action was the admission by the local officers of the existence of real grounds for complaint, although they differed as to the magnitude of the same.

This probing of their wounds only exasperated the Santhals, who failed to comprehend why there should by any delay in the application of alleviative measures ; hence they became more and more threatening in their attitude, and it was with great difficulty that I could dissuade them from insurrection by pointing out to them that rebellion could only frustrate their object, inasmuch as they would be shot down to a man, whilst, if they only had a little patience, the Government would redress all their real grievances. I was also employed on serveral occasions by officers to explain matters to them in their own language, with a view to keeping them quiet untill Government could decide on the best course to adopt.

This took shape in the well-known enactment of Sir George Campbell, entitled, "An Act for the better Government of the Santhals," of 1873, whereby the settlement of the Pergunnahs comprehending among other things the measurement of land, demarcation of village boundaries, settling of rates, permanency of tenure, and record of rights of headmen and ryots, under which any person ousted subsequently to 1858, would be eligible for re-instatement, was ordered. Only one other provision of the same Act need be mentioned here, namely that thence forward no money-lender could recover more than 25 per cent. simple interest, notwithstanding any agreement to the contrary, and that under no circumstances would he be entitled to more than double the original principal, whilst three pairs of oxen. food for one year, and all agricultural implements, and domestic utensils were exempted from seizure...

In conclusion I shall make a few remarks on some of the imperfections and faults of the Santhal Settlement. 1. Instead of erecting permanent landmarks of stone or brick between village and village, the Government only threw up small heaps of earth, which have been subsequently washed away by the rains, which has given rise to no end of litigation ; 2. Government only measure the gross cultivated area of each village, and merely by an afterthought caused the headman and his ryots to measure the individual holdings without recording any boundaries, as between tenant and tenant, and without testing the accuracy of the measurement, so that it is not certain whether each ryot has the quantity of land for which he pays rent, and that if the whole village combine against any one ryot he has no documentary evidence to prove where his land is situated ; 3. the settlement had dissolved the relation between landlord and tenant. The former is hardly anything more in the village and to the people than the recipient of a specific sum of money when they have gathered in their crops, and not the father of his children, which, with all his faults, he formerly used to be. The maujhi, or headman is the real landlord of the village as against the zemindar and a kind of

antagonistic feeling, not to say, defiant attitude, has sprung up between the two, on account of all which the zemindar has ceased to take much interest in his property. The same kind of non-relation also exists between the ryot and their headman, ...of whom has no more control over the former than the zemindar has over him, each ryot being in his security of tenure absolutely independent as long as he pays his rent to the headman while he takes care to assert the fact that he is now his own master by ignoring the authority both of his chief and the village punchayet, so that perfect anarchy prevails in connection with all village matters, and litigation has greatly increased and with it the truthfulness of the Santhals has given place to falsehood, which is a thing unheard of when they settle their differences among themselves. I very much fear this disintegration of mutual relationship is beyond recall and will do serious mischief.

L. O. SKREFSRUD

1 November 1880

BIRTHDAY GIFTS

We learn that among the numerous birthday gifts presented to His Highness the Maharajah of Cooch Behar on the occasion of his birth anniversary, recently celebrated at the Lilly Cottage in Circular road, there were two that are worthy of note. One was an ornamental cask, which we are informed, was originally intended to contain brandy, but the small silver plate affixed to the cask bearing the name, has since been altered and the words "Adam's Ale" have been engraved in lieu ; the other was a illustrated pictorial Bible very handsomely bound. Both these gifts were presented by Baboo Keshub Chunder Sen, who evidently desires that his illustrious son-in-law should not only avoid intoxicating drinks, but that he may be persuaded to enter the folds of Brahmoism.

10 November 1880

THE SANTHAL LAND SETTLEMENT (Correspondence)

To the Editor.

Sir,—I have read with considerable interest Mr. Skrefsrud's letter on the Santhal Land Settlement, which appeared in your issue of November 1st. So far as the Santhal Pergunnahs are concerned, there seems to be little further to be desired, and if the Santhals there are not contented, they ought to be, as they appear to have had more done for them than they could reasonably expect. Mr. Skrefsrud, I presume, writes only of the Santhal Pergunnahs when he says, "It is erroneous to say it has conduced to unsettle their minds, and that the raising of rents from Rs 20 to Rs 200 and so on, alleged by the writer in the Englishman, is purely mythical." The Land Settlement, no doubt, settled the minds of those in whose interests it was enacted, but it also tended to unsettle the minds of those who, hearing of it, found themselves outside of its beneficent operation. That much unrest and discontent prevail at present in some districts bordering on the Santhal Pergunnahs is an undoubted fact, and that the advantageous Land Settlement in the Santhal Pergunnahs has something to do with it is also true.

Lately the zemindars have taken to measuring the land cultivated by Santhals, and assessing it at the pergunnah rates, while still maintaining the numerous cesses levied when the rental was much lower. Under the old method of a low rental supplemented by cesses, they got on in some instances tolerably well, as they always managed to pay their rent, and legal proceedings could not be taken against them for arrears of cesses. But under the present system, when rents are being raised at one bound from 50 to 100 per cent., and sometimes even more with the cesses still maintained, is it at all to be wondered at that, being aware of an equitable settlement having been made elsewhere, they should be dissatisfied and discontented? Where the Santhals have been left unprotected, the Hindus are pressing hard upon them, and gradually depriving them of their

lands, so that what still remains in their possession has to maintain a larger member of persons than under ordinary conditions it would be required to do. With a sudden rise in rents many families pass at once from comparative comfort to semi-starvation, as what remains after paying the enhanced rent is not sufficient to provide for the wants of all. That the zemindar is not altogether to blame for this state of matters is true, but still none the less does it make the Santhals discontented.

That the Santhals are entitled to some consideration is evident from the action taken by the Government in the land settlement of the Santhal Pergunnahs, but why one-half should be well cared for, and the other half left much to themselves is difficult to understand ; certainly the average Santhal cannot comprehend it. Very many of the estates in which Santhals are found in Chota Nagpore and the south of the Monghyr district are ghatwalli tenures. The revenues of these estates have largely increased, while less and less is being required, in the way of service. from their holders, the police now doing nearly all that they formerly did in protecting travellers and the like. Seeing that they hold their lands entirely at the pleasure of Government, and the revenues derived from them being out of all proportions to the services rendered, the Government might well insist upon some leniency being shewn towards those, to whose labours and tenacity of purpose much of this increase is due.

In my letter to you of the 10th September, which appeared in your issue of 15th September, I wrote : "I am certain that if His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor would cause enquiries to be made into the conditions of the Santhals outside of the Santhal Pergunnahs, a state of matters would be revealed as much requiring a Regulation, as did that of the Santhal Pergunnahs in 1872." I now reiterate that statement, and the events that have taken place since then fully bear me out in my assertion.

The perturbed state of the Santhals in the extreme south

of the Santhal Pergunnahs, in Chota Nagpore and the south of Monghyr is not entirely due to matters connected with the land, but in some measure owes its origin in Kherwarism, which, although apparently on the wane further north, is vigorous and aggresive in the districts mentioned above. But at Mr. Skrefsrud's letter on that subject is yet to come, I feel myself precluded from referring further to it.

A. CAMPBELL

November 6th, 1880.

NOTE.—As Mr. Campbell's personal knowledge belongs to other localities than those of which Mr. Skrefsrud wrote, we hope he will give us the benefit of it on the subject of Kherwarism, as he has kindly done on the land question. Men like Mr. Campbell and Mr. Skrefsrud render an important public service when they come forward to throw light on the condition of the people among whom they labour.—Ed. S.

11 November 1880

THE SANTHALS (Editorial)

It will be observed that the correspondent whose letter we publish today, regarding the Santhal troubles appears not to have heard of the peculiar police oppression mentioned by another correspondent from Giridhi the other day. But he agrees with him in attributing the troubles that have arisen to official mismangement. In the meantime, a third correspondent, whom we know to be reliable, sends us the following account of the incident at Jamtara.

"The Santhals had been invited to meet the magistrate at Jamtara on a certain date to receive an explanation of what was intended by the census. A very large number of their chiefs and headmen were present on that day, and they were kept sitting under the trees nearly all day. In the evening a court peon called three or four of the chiefs by name, and took them into a room where the magistrate and another, said to be the 'Burra Sahib', were, and then the door was shut. In a

little while another chief was called by name. He also entered, and the door was again closed. After some time the door again opened and two or three of the men came out, the others who had not agreed, it was said, to the census being taken, were kept in custody. Then the Santhals consulted among themselves what they would do to effect the release of their leaders. At that meeting it was decided that all should be in attendance in the morning, and if possible get them out of custody. But that evening the house was burned. This is the account which a man, a Santhal headman who was present, gave me. This may not be the true account. I do not say it is ; but still it is the account which is received by the Santhals."

It may be worth mentioning that our correspondent did not venture to send us this communication directly, but in a roundabout way, because information conveyed to the newspapers is liable to interception in local post offices.

25 December 1880

EDITORIAL NOTES

I. *The Statesman*

The Indian Statesman, as it was known in early 1875, was founded by Mr. Robert Knight (1826-90). Before the arrival of Mr. Dawson, the editor-designate, the paper was temporarily edited by Mr. J. W. O' Sullivan. To distinguish it from *The Indian Statesman* of Bombay, the Calcutta journal dropped the epithet, and was simply called *The Statesman* on and from the 14th September, 1875.

Selections, or to be more exact, extracts from *The Statesman* may also be found in the compilations published by the Statesman Ltd, on the occasion of its centenary celebrations. *See* 1. 'Century in extracts', *100 years of the Statesman*, Calcutta, 1975, (pp. 69-172). 2. *The Statesman : an anthology* compiled by Niranjan Majumdar, Calcutta and New Delhi, 1975, 623+VIII pages.

An official account of the early history of *The Statesman* is reproduced below :

"Robert Knight was in treaty for *The Friend of India* before he established *The Statesman*. For some years the two papers were printed independently, and when, at last, Knight decided to merge the one into the other he was reluctant that *The Friend of India* should disappear entirely, so he incorporated the title with that of *The Statesman*....

..."Rs. 30,000 changed hands, and the paper [*Friend of India*] was brought from Serampore to Calcutta, where it was published from the same press as *The Indian Statesman*, which Robert Knight has started a few months before after persuading 24 merchants to help him by taking a share in the experiment. Some historians say that after he had purchased it he forthwith amalgamated it with *The Indian Statesman*. That is not so. *The Friend of India* was continued till 1883 as an

independent weekly, with which the weekly overseas editors of *The Statesman* was incorporated. After that it was *The Friend of India* which was incorporated with *The Statesman*, and for some decades the paper was headed simply "The Statesman and Friend of India."

"The 24 merchants mentioned were not Knight's only backers. Indians of progressive thought also gave support, conspicuous amongst them Sri Trailokya Nath Chatterjee, manager of the Paikpara Raj Estate. He was a great friend of Knight, and so much did he identify himself with *The Statesman's* prosperity that even after Knight's death people believed that the Paikpara Raj had some hand in its management. Nor was this notion wrong....

"Not only in the mind of Robert Knight, but in the mind of readers of *The Statesman*, for long after his death, *The Friend of India* and *The Statesman* were the same paper, and it is strange that contemporaries should have attempted to prove that there was no continuity. That continuity was well indicated when Robert Knight died, for eulogies of him emphasized that he was a true 'friend of India.' It is significant that he made no general pronouncement of policy in the first number of *The Indian Statesman*. That pronouncement came only when he had obtained control a few months later of *The Friend of India*. It praised Carey, Ward and Marshman, and denounced Townsend and by implication Dr. George Smith. The policy of Robert Knight, put in a sentence, in his leading article, was to take, 'a sympathizing, unselfish interest in the people.'

His career in India may be divided into two parts – that in Bombay, whereafter editing two dailies he was mainly responsible for the merger which led to the foundation of *The Times of India* in 1863, and his career in Calcutta. With the former we are not here concerned, except to say that when he resigned the position of editor of *The Bombay Gazette* the inhabitants held a public meeting at which they presented him with a purse of a lakh of rupees. Arriving in Calcutta in 1872,

armed with the lakh with other funds, he had saved, he started *The Indian Economist*.

The ability with which this monthly periodical, the name of which explains its character, was conducted, induced the Government of Bengal to appoint him an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Agriculture. In that capacity it was his duty to edit an official periodical called *The Agricultural Gazette of India*. Robert Knight conceived it his duty to attack both in this paper, and in *The Indian Economist* certain measures relating to famine relief.

"Then looking round for an avenue for another journalistic venture, his eyes fell upon *The Friend of India*. There were delays in the purchase. In the meanwhile the opportunity offered to start *The Indian Statesman*, of which the first number was printed in January 1875.

..."In those days four annas was the accepted price for one copy of the issue of a daily paper. To come down to one anna was unheard of. Other newspapers in Calcutta was shocked, and to journalistic jealousy was added offended pride that any newspaper in the East should be hawked about for the equivalent of a penny 'at all the ghats and railway stations and at every great centre of transit in the city.'

"There were already then two daily newspapers [*The Indian Daily News* and *The Englishman*] established in Calcutta. One of them entirely ignored the appearances of the new journal – an irregular and unfriendly thing to do according to the ethic of journalism at that time. It was understood when a competitor appeared that one should say something good or bad. The other paper did say something. It was to the effect that Robert Knight should be arrested, for his hand was to be traced in an article which was likely to produce indignation against the Viceroy. Robert Knight was still then in charge of the Department of Statistics and Agriculture in the Bengal Secretariat. The article was connected with the trial of the Gaekwar of Baroda on a charge of attempting to poison Colonel Phayre, the Resident. The affair was a great scandal in 1875.

"The name of Dawson mentioned in the editorial, already quoted, appears occasionally in the contemporary journals of the time, but it is doubtful whether its holder ever had the free hand that the title of editor presupposes. It was Robert Knight who controlled *The Indian Statesman* and *The Statesman* from the beginning."

– *A Brief history of The Statesman*, Calcutta, 1947, pp. 12-13.

II. *Robert Knight : an anecdote*

"We take from the *Englishman* the following report of a case tried by Mr. Thomas Jones, Fifth Judge of the Calcutta Small Cause Court :

"Shaik Babu Khitmutgar *vs.* Robert Knight. Plaintiff sought to recover from the defendent, Mr. Robert Knight, Assistant Secretary of the Government of Bengal, rupees eight, on account of wages.

"Mr. Knight stated that the defendent had served him for some days, and had deserted his service, without completing the months ; and had put him to inconvenience. Under the circumstances, he disputed plaintiff's right to recover wages for the broken period.

"Plaintiff produced a certificate, signed by Mr. Knight, which bore testimony to his character, abilities, and the cause of his leaving the service.

"The Judge : According to this certificate, Mr. Knight, the plaintiff had been obliged to leave your service owing to ill-health.

"Mr. Knight said that he would like to see the certificate. After looking at it, he added that he was really very much surprised at its production by the plaintiff, who must have got it from him by deception. It was doubtless a piece of ingenuity on the part of the servant, for which he was unprepared. He now remembered some of the Secretariat peons coming to him and begging of him to give a certificate to one of his servants who had been obliged, owing to ill-health, to leave his

service. urging that unless a servant in this country got a certificate from his late employer, it would be a matter of very great difficulty for him to obtain employment. He had no idea at the time that the certificate had been solicited in behalf of the plaintiff.

"The Judge : I suppose, Mr. Knight, you are hardly aware that the servants of this country are far more cunning than many people imagine them to be. The question now is, are you prepared to prove that the contents of that certificate are incorrect. According to the certificate, you admit that the plaintiff had left your service owing to ill-health, and he would be entitled to his wages.

"Mr. Knight said that he knew nothing personally of the plaintiff's services. He took no part in his domestic affairs. Had the plaintiff left owing to illness, he would have received what was due to him before he left. The circumstances under which he left were mentioned to him subsequent to the receipt of the summons. However, he supposed he must pay the money. But he would like to take back the certificate.

"The Judge regretted his ability to order the plaintiff to give up the certificate. At present it was the property of the plaintiff.

"Mr. Knight said that he had no doubt about the certificate having been obtained under false pretences. Surely he had a right to take it away from the plaintiff.

"The Judge said that it was not within his province to suggest the course which the defendant might take to recover the certificate. It was sufficient for him to state that he had such a remedy. He must order the document to be returned to the plaintiff.

"Mr. Ross, as *amicus curiæ*, would remark that at present the certificate was a part of the record in the case. The plaintiff would be entitled to get it from the Court after the lapse of four days.

"Mr. Knight asked to see the certificate once more, and on its being handed over to him, tore it up, and at the same time

handed over to the clerk a currency note to cover the decree and costs. This caused a great deal of amusement to the bench and to those present in Court.

"With reference to the above our contemporary says :

"The First Judge of the Small Cause Court on Wednesday last called on the Fifth Judge to state whether the report of a case said to have been heard before Mr. Jones and headed 'Sheikh Babu Khidmatgar *vs.* Robert Knight', and published in the *Englishman* of that day, was correct, or not, and, if incorrect, in what respects. Mr. Fagan has also called on Mr. Sanderson, the Public Prosecutor, to take measures promptly to bring the defendant in that case before the Magistrate under three sections of the Penal Code.

"We are sorry for the temper shewn by Mr. Knight."

—*The Hindoo Patriot*, April 6, 1874

III. *The National Indian Association*

Founded by Mary Carpenter in September 1870 at Bristol. The object of the Association was promotion of 'social intercourse between Indians visiting England and the English people.' It took various steps to stimulate interest in the social and educational progress in India. National Indian Association had branches in Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. A monthly journal was published from England by NIA which took the cause of social amelioration in various fields in India.

For further references see :

Journal of the National Indian Association, March 1876, no. 63, and also, January 1878, no. 85.

IV. *The Mahomedan Literary Society*

"In 1863, Nawab (then Moulvie) Abdool Luteef Khan Bahadur conceived the idea of arousing the Mahomedan Community into literary activity and public spirit by establishing a Society, where Mahomedans might meet for intellectual

enlightenment and social intercourse. The idea was communicated to, and approved by, several of the most learned and influential members of the community, and with their co-operation a Meeting was convened at his house on the 2nd April 1863, attended by a large number of the most respectable Mahomedans of the Metropolis under the presidency of the late Moulvie Mahomed Wajeeh, the Head Professor of the Arabic Department of the Calcutta Madrassah – the most learned Arabic Scholar of his day and the acknowledged head of the learned and respectable classes of the Mahomedan community in Bengal. At this, the first Meeting, Nawab Abdool Luteef Khan read a Paper in Persian, on the advantages of such Meetings for the purpose of imparting useful information to the better classes of the Mahomedan community, who were mostly unacquainted with the English language. Moulvie Mahomed Abdool Rowoof, Head Translator in the Indian Legislative Department, and his Assistant the late Moulvie Abdool Hukeem and the venerable Chairman also read Papers on the same subject. The business of the day concluded with the reading by one of his pupils of an interesting and instructive Lecture, composed by the Venerable Chairman himself refuting some of the Doctrines of the Wahabis.

"This Meeting was an unqualified success and aroused a great deal of interest in the minds of the Mahomedan gentlemen present. A new departure had been made and the path of success opened to the cultivation of new methods of thought long neglected by the Community.

"A great deal of this success was due to the countenance and patronage of three worthies, long since deceased – Moulvie Mahomed Wajeeh, Kazi Abdool Baree and Moulvie Hafiz Ajeeb Ahmud, who were respected by the entire Mahomedan Community, as the most learned and pious men of their time, – and to the untiring zeal and unflinching devotion, manifested by Moulvie Mahomed Abdoor Rowoof, the late Moulvie Abdool Hukeem, and several other gentlemen.

"On the 13th May following, the second Meeting of the

Society was held. It was very numerously attended and several Discourses on such useful subjects, as the Uses of History, the Origin of Newspapers, Commerce, Arts, Agriculture and Geography, &c., &c., were read. The unexpected popularity of these two gatherings, led to the holding of Monthly Meeting, which were quite successful. The Fifth Monthly Meeting was held on the 7th August, when a Lecture was delivered in *English* by Mr. F. G. Teale, then Assistant Director-General of the Telegraph Department, on *Electricity* and the *Electric Telegraph*, illustrated by experiments. This Lecture was interpreted to the audience, by Nawab Abdool Luteef, sentence by sentence, in Urdoo, for the benefit of those unacquainted with that language, and was very highly appreciated. The next Meeting was held on the 6th October, at which, among several Papers, read by different Mahomedan gentlemen, on diverse subjects, one was on *Patriotism and the Necessity of promoting knowledge in India*, delivered in Persian, by Sir (then Moulvie) Syed Ahmud Khan Bahadur, K. C. S. I., then Principal Sudder Ameen of Ghazipore, who happened to be in Calcutta, on his first visit. The Tenth Monthly Meeting, was held on the 6th of May 1864, at the Medical College Theatre, in which a Lecture on *Combustion* was delivered by Dr. Kanye Lall Dey, Rai Bahadur, and it was attended by about 800 Mahomedan gentlemen of the town and suburbs of Calcutta. Several European and Hindu gentlemen favoured the Meeting with their presence, and among others was the late lamented Mr. J. P. Norman, then Officiating Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court, who also kindly took part in the proceedings.

"On the 30th May 1864, at the First Annual Meeting, Rules were framed for the conduct of the Society's proceedings, and a Committee of Management and Office Bearers appointed. Moulvie Mahomed Wajeeh was elected President, and Kazi Abdool Baree and Moulvie Hafiz Azeeb Ahmud, Vice Presidents, and Nawab Abdool Luteef Bahadur, C. I. E., Secretary. Thus the Society assumed a definite shape and method. The

office of the Patron of the Institution was kindly accepted by the late Sir Cecil Beadon, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

"The founders of the Mahomedan Literary Society had from the very outset, another object in view, *viz.*, the promotion of social intercourse and interchange of thought among the different communities of Her Majesty's subjects. To carry out this object in view, the First Grand *Conversazione* was held at the Town Hall on the 13th March 1865. The attendance was very large. About 2,000 gentlemen were present, the majority of whom were Mahomedans. The *elite* of the European, Hindu, Parsee and Jewish communities were also present. His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, with his Staff and a number of Government officials graced the occasion with their presence. This conversazione on such a grand scale was the first of its kind ever held in India and elicited the warm approval of the Press.

"The Second Conversazione, held on the 6th March 1866, was honored by the august presence of His Excellency the Viceroy, the late Lord Lawrence.

"The Third Conversazione was held on the 2nd March 1867. On the motion of the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir Cecil Beadon), His Excellency the Viceroy took occasion, at this *Soiree*, to express his hearty approbation of the efforts made by Nawab Abdool Luteef in the cause of general and Scientific Education; and as 'a suitable token' of His Excellency's approbation of the Nawab's 'services in this good cause', awarded him through the Government of Bengal a set of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, with an Autograph Inscription to the effect, that these books were presented to him 'in recognition of his services in promoting Native Education, especially the Education of those, who like himself belong to the Mahomedan Religion.' This reward was supplemented by a Gold Medal from His Honor, who also presented it for 'his services in promoting Education among the Mahomedans of Bengal.' In forwarding the above, the Officiating Secretary to the Government of Bengal (the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, Sir Steuart Colvin

Bayley, K. C. S. I.) was directed to say that, 'by founding the Mahomedan Literary Society (a Society which now comprises nearly 500 members, and has become the parent of similar Societies in other places), you have successfully led the Mahomedans, not only of Bengal, but of India, generally to look beyond the narrow bounds of their own system, and to explore those accumulated treasures of thought and feeling which are to be found embodied in the English Language ; while by your active and reasonable interposition on many occasions, you have led them to form a just conception of the policy and intentions of the Government, and to express their opinions freely, not only on questions of Literary and Scientific interest, but on those affecting their own social and political condition and the general welfare of the country.' The Government also considered that 'a still more gratifying reward' of the Nawab's exertions, consisted 'in the desire now shown by the Mahomedans of Bengal for the acquisition of sound and useful knowledge, and their growing appreciation of Modern Science and the Learning of the Western Nations.'...

"This Conversazione of the Mahomedan Literary Society has ever since been repeated yearly, without fail, and has been honored by the presense of successive Viceroys, Lieutenant-Governors, Commanders-in-Chief, and other eminent and exalted Officers of the Government. Year after year, fresh efforts have been made to secure the co-operation of both European and Native gentlemen interested in Scientific subjects, and some of the nearest and most attractive Instruments and experiments in Physical Science and Chemistry have been exhibited. Special attempts have also been made to present at the Conversazione the latest discoveries in Science and Art made in Europe and America. His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh attended the Sixth Annual Conversazione, and was very graciously pleased to enrich the Society with a Photographic likeness of himself. His Majesty the King of Siam, and some Princes of the Siamese Blood Royal, accompanied by His Excellency the Viceroy (Lord Mayo) attended the Eighth Annual Conversa-

zione of the Society, held in January 1872. Among the Native Princes who happened to be on a visit to Calcutta, at the time when Conversazione took place in different years, and who honored the Society's Conversazione with their august presence. were Their Highness the Maharajah Holker of Indore, the Begum of Bhopal, and the Maharajahs of Jeypore, Pattialah, Ulwar, Punnah and Coochbehar.

"This is an appropriate occasion for the most cordial acknowledgements of the Society being recorded as eminently due to the several distinguished Scientific gentlemen, who have repeatedly contributed to the success of the entertainments, by the exhibition of most difficult and interesting experiments in Physical Science, Electricity and Chemistry, and notably so to the Very Revd. Father E. Lafont, Dr. Kanye Lall Dey, Dr. Mahendra Lall Sirkar, Dr. Tara Prosunno Rai, Dr. Mahendra Nath Gupta, Mr. J. C. Bose, Mr. J. J. Meade and Baboo Preo Lall Dey. The different Firms of Tradesmen are also entitled to the best thanks of the Society for sending various articles of great value and exquisite workmanship, year after year, for exhibition at the Conversaziones.

"In the monthly Meetings, Lectures on various Literary, Scientific, Historical and other practical subjects continued to be delivered from time to time by eminent Scientific Scholars and Antiquarians of the day. Among others may be mentioned the Hon'ble J. Gibbs, C.S.I., C.I.I., Raja Rajendra Lall Mittra, Rai Bahadur, C.I.E., LL. D., the Very Revd. Father E. Lafont, S.J., C.I.E., Dr. A. F. R. Hoernle, the late Dr. H. W. McCann, Mr. F. G. Teale, Dr. C. H. Wood, the late Mr. H. Woodrow, Dr. J. A. P. Colles, the late Rev. C. H. A. Dall, Dr. Kanye Lall Dey Rai Bahadure, C.I.E., F.C.S., The Hon'ble Dr. Mahendra Lall Sirkar, C.I.E., and Dr. Tara Prosunno Rai, Rai Bahadur, F.C.S., F.I.C. Everyone of these Lectures was interpreted in Urdoo by the Secretary, for the benefit of those who had not received an English Education.

"The Annual Conversaziones and the Monthly Lectures on Scientific and Historical subjects in connection with the Maho-

medan Literary Society, have not only been instructive and highly attractive, but their influence have been felt over a wide range. The have opened before men's minds a new world of thought. The marvels of Science seemed to lay bare to them a region of wonder and miracles. Thus, at a time, when there was no Science Association to instruct men in the subtleties of Physical Science, no International Exhibition to place before the public the best products of the World, the Mahomedan Literary Society created an interest in the study of Scientific and other kindred subjects, and prepared men's minds to receive the new forces imported from the West, and thus advance the noble cause of general Education. The stimulus thus imported grew stronger and stronger and it became evident to the members of their own Community that if they desired to keep pace with other Nationalities, they must be prepared to give their children a sound and liberal Education, both in ancient and modern learning, so that they might prove themselves useful members of Society and able to take part in the movements of the time."

—Mahomed Ruheemooddeen, *A Quarter century of the Mahomedan Literary Society : a resume' of its work, from 1863 to 1889*, Calcutta, 1889, pp. 4-10

V. *Mulhar Rao, Gaekwar of Baroda*

"Succeeded his brother, Khandi Rao, in Nov., 1870, as ruler of Baroda : complaints of his misrule having reached Government an enquiry was held in 1873, and time to reform was allowed : before the time elapsed an attempt was made in 1874 to poison the Resident, Colonel R. Phayre : in 1875, the Gaekwar was tried by a mixed Commission : the three British officers found him guilty : the three native members declared the charge not proven : he was then deposed for gross misgovernment, and deported to Madras, where he died in 1882."

—C. E. Buckland, *Dictionary of National Biography*, London, 1906, p. 28.

VI. *Baroda in 1875*

The expression of widespread public excitement over the Mulhar Rao-case, can be found in all the Indian and Anglo-Indian newspapers during 1874-75. Lord Northbrook's deposition of the Gaekwar aroused deep resentment among the politically conscious section of the Indian population. *The Statesman* though not a nationalist paper, yet expressed its strong indignation against Government's Baroda policy, and we may compare its comments with Kristo Das Pal's *The Hindoo Pariot.*

cf. The Hindoo Patriot,

1. The Baroda Commission – its result and moral, Aug. 17, 1874
2. Baroda, Nov. 23, 1874
3. Baroda and Sattara, Dec. 14, 1874
4. Baroda, Jan. 18, 1874 ; Jan. 25, 1875 ; Feb. 1, 1875
5. The Baroda Commission, Feb. 22, 1875
6. The Gaekwar Trial, March 1, 1875 ; March 8, 1875 ; March 15, 1875
7. The Native feeling of the Baroda Question, March 8, 1875
8. The Gaekwar's Trial, March 22, 1875
9. The Policy of Gaekwar's Trial, April 22, 1875
10. The Gaekwar's trial and political feeling, April 12, 1875
11. Baroda, April 26, 1875
12. The Governor General on the Baroda Commission, May 3, 1875
13. Her Majesty's Government on the Baroda Commission, May 3, 1875
14. The Native Members of the Baroda Commission, May 3, 1875
15. English Opinion on the Baroda Commission, May 3, 1875
16. The Moral of the Baroda Commission, May 3, 1875
17. Was the Baroda Commission a Mistake ? May 10, 1876.

Sambhu Chandra Mookerjee published a 'Baroda Yellow-Book' (March 1875) consisting of three issues (no. 27, 28 & 29) of the *Mookerjee's Magazine* which was found 'seditious', and even present-day scholars find 'The Baroda Coup d'Etat' expressing "extreme views" and even "more extreme" than *Amrita Bazar Patrika*. (Edward C. Moulton, *Lord Northbrook's Indian administration: 1872-1876*, Bombay, 1968, p. 158.)

The Indian Statesman, the only Anglo-Indian journal of that period, reviewed *Mookerjee's Magazine* in length, and attached due importance to the opinions of Mookerjee. We quote below a portion of that review :

"There is no pretence of loyalty in the Baroda number of *Mookerjee's Magazine*. The intense hatred of British rule which breathes in almost every line of the pamphlet is even startling, accustomed though we may be to the diatribes of the more candid of the native organs of opinion. There is ability as well as force and bitterness in the bill of indictment drawn up against England, and it will doubtless serve its purpose of lashing into fury the enmity of many of our native fellow-subjects. We really admire the candour boldness of the writer ; his language may be here and there exaggerated, but he has certainly hit not a few blots, and if he has done harm by exciting passions of our foes, he has also done *us* good just as a bitter tonic is more effacious than a more soothing syrup. Lip-loyalty is odious to those who do not believe that it accurately represents the inner feelings, and dangerous to the credulous fools who swallow it all as gospel. It would be pleasant to know that British rule was universally beloved and respected in India, but if such be not the case, it is certainly advantageous to learn from the candour of our foes that there does exist a necessity for keeping our swords bright and keen in their scabbards. The official-atmosphere in India is so filled with the fumes of lip-loyalty and slavish adulation that responsible authorities may also be pardoned for not seeing, through this smoky fog, things as they really are. Officials, moreover, are directly

interested in representing the outlook to be bright and clear, even if they know themselves to be enveloped in a delusive and dangerous fog, for if they report the existence of discontent and disloyalty, they indirectly accuse themselves of bad management in having brought about so undesirable a state of things. It is always necessary to find a scapegoat who is to be made responsible for all and every disease in the body politic, and few are willing to offer themselves as voluntary sacrifices by dwelling upon the existence of unfavourable symptoms in the patient they are endeavouring to doctor and are expected to cure. Constitutional causes of disease, such as antagonism of race, religion, custom, interests, &c, are not allowed for in such cases, and the man who cannot cry 'all's well' at all times is condemned as an incapable blockhead. But although there are various reasons why we should admire and approve the candour exhibited in publications like the one under consideration, it may be suggested with some degree of plausibility that the Government of India, having once satisfied itself that disloyalty is not yet extinct in the country, and knowing what its own great strength is, should exercise a parental discretion in removing out of the reach of the people it is bound to protect publications which are eminently calculated, if not expressly designed, to create a conflagration which could only be quenched in blood of ignorant persons, who, not knowing what the real strength of the British power, is, and atributing the licence of the writers to the weakness of their rulers, are led onward in the path which terminates in the precipice of insurrection.

..."The following is a temperate criticism of Lord Northbrook's action in the Baroda matter. 'We were startled by intelligence of a still worse—absolutely shocking—outrage. It is no less than the arrest by the emissaries of our Government of an independent sovereign in his own capital. India stands transfixed in wonder and awe, as the greatest Indian Prince stands a prisoner awaiting trial or rather confirmation of sentence. Never, perhaps, since Briton set foot on Asian

soil has the Government of India been so audacious. Never Kaiser or Mogul dreamed of things the Viceroy of the distant Queen of England has accomplished. The pretentions of the British Government baffle the imagination. No sovereign in India has streched his authority so far as Lord Northbrook. Perhaps the history of international relations does not afford a single precedent of the kind. No sovereign, however powerful, has before now assumed the right to seize in his own territory the person of another sovereign however humble. Sovereigns have before been seized and deposed – even killed, but that was in a state of war. Sovereigns have before been mobbed and seized and brought to trial and beheaded, but only by their own subjects – an infuriated population. Here, in a state of profound peace, without a rupture between the two Governments or notice of rupture, has the Indian Government, by a simple fiat, assumed the right to depose at will Princes in treaty with it – its good and trusty allies - and bring them to trial like any of its subjects. What is the independence of Native States worth after that ? What is the value of the mass of treaties between those States and our Government, which in print occupy eight volumes in Mr. Secretary Aitchison's Compilation ?' Whatever may be the opinion of the native public on the Baroda case, it might, we think, be adequately expressed in terms less 'inflammatory' in their nature. It must not be supposed, from the space we have given to the subject, that we attach any undue importance to the opinions and utterances of *Mookerjee ;* but as one of the leading organs of native opinion in Bengal has already spoken in complimentary, though guarded, terms of the pamphlet in question, we feel justified in drawing attention to what may help more or less in spreading discontent and disloyalty, and in asking the Government of India where it proposes to draw the line between treason and lawful criticism of its acts and its general policy."

It is very interesting to find modern Indian scholars doing

their research works at Oxford, trying to minimize the implications of the Baroda incident, and corroborating the official statements made by the Government. Dr. Uma Dasgupta concludes her chapter on 'The Baroda Affair' with a censure in the Indian press : 'The press in India was partisan without having much idea as to the exact issues involved.' (*Rise of an Indian public*, Calcutta, 1977, p. 225.) However, the editorial comments of the *Statesman*, the *Hindoo Patriot* and the *Mookerjee's Magazine* tell a tale differently.

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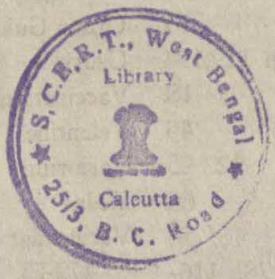
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